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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Lebanese Deputies Meeting in Al-Ta'if

Committee Approves Plan

NC1210071689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The Information Ministry mission in al-Ta'if supplied us with the following report a short while ago:

The parliamentary drafting committee completed its task early today after a 6-hour marathon meeting chaired by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. The committee approved the proposed formulation of the outstanding points concerning the jurisdictions of the president, the prime minister, and the cabinet. The points also deal with the duration of the chamber's term of office.

The committee will review its achievements at a meeting scheduled for 1400 today. The members of the tripartite committee will determine a date for the general parliamentary meeting to approve the provisions of the final formula of the national accord document. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, deputy Zahir al-Khatib announced the following 10 provisions on behalf of the National Front, which were adopted by 12 deputies at a meeting held at deputy 'Assaf's residence yesterday:

1. Sectarianism should be revoked immediately or within a 5-year period, or it could be considered null and void once the first chamber of deputies has been elected;

2. The procedural authority should be entrusted with the cabinet as an independent constitutional body with its own headquarters;

3. The president should not be the supreme commander of the armed forces. This would run counter to the principle of transfer of the procedural powers to the cabinet because the armed forces should be subject to the cabinet's authority;

4. Cabinet sessions should be chaired by the prime minister except when the president attends these sessions. However, the president shall not vote while presiding over the cabinet sessions;

5. The government shall be considered resigned when half of its members tender their resignation;

6. The current chamber of deputies should be expanded to fill the vacant or newly created posts in accordance with the contents of the Arab document or previous documents as regarding the number of deputies which should be 128 equally distributed between Christians and Muslims;

7. The distinguished relations between Lebanon and Syria should be emphasized as stipulated in the Arab document;

8. The national resistance should be supported as a main factor for liberating the land from the Zionist enemy. Furthermore, the army's task should be defined. It should be reconstructed and unified on sound national bases and its fighting ideology should be based on the defense and liberation of the homeland from the Zionist enemy;

9. Accord should be achieved in full, and its document which will be adopted should not be divided, particularly with regard to the provision related to the establishment of the state's sovereignty as stipulated in the Arab document; and

10. The accord document, which will be adopted, should be considered constitutional. All measures should immediately be adopted to implement its provisions after being ratified by the chamber of deputies and after the cancellation of all points contained in the constitution and laws that run counter to the document's provisions.

Agreement on President's Powers

NC1210074489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The parliamentary meetings in al-Ta'if will end in a few hours. Pending the issuance of an official statement, some ambiguity continues to surround the clauses on which the deputies had differed. These clauses are related to the powers of the president, the chamber of deputies speaker, and the prime minister; the scheduling of the Syrian withdawal from Lebanon, and the abolition of sectarianism.

Parliamentary sources in al-Ta'if expect last night's drafting committee meeting from 2200 until dawn today to be the final meeting. Meanwhile, the deputies will hold a general meeting today requested by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. This will be the final meeting after 12 days of discussions.

The drafting committee last night reached a general visualization on the aforementioned powers and today it will draw up a formula on the basis of this visualization and in light of the amendments that have already been approved. The committee left the clause related to Syrian withdrawal to the tripartite ministerial committee to find a solution to this problem, since the parliamentary discussions of it ended in a deadlock.

However, according to parliamentary sources in al-Ta'if, an agreement was reached during the drafting committee's meeting that the president of the Republic will be the supreme commander of the armed forces, according to the national accord document; the president will also chair the cabinet whenever he wishes to do so. It was also agreed that the president will name the prime minister on the basis of parliamentary consultations—the phrase "general political consultations" has been deleted. It was agreed that it will not be necessary for the speaker of the chamber of deputies to attend such consultations. The

president will appoint the prime minister and the ministers and will accept or reject their resignations and will give the new prime minister a period of 1 month to form a government.

It was also agreed that the chamber of deputies speaker's term of office will be 4 years. A vote of confidence in the speaker will be taken at the conclusion of the 1st year. Confidence in the speaker will be withdrawn if one-half of the number of the deputies plus one, namely, 55 deputies, cast a vote of no confidence. The principle of increasing the number of deputies to 108 has been approved. To bring the number of deputies to the required figure, it was agreed that the government will nominate deputies and the present chamber of deputies will elect them by a majority vote, that is, one-half of the deputies plus one.

Timetable for Syrian Withdrawal

NC1210085389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] REUTER reports from al-Ta'if that the ongoing discussions on Lebanon's future witnessed a major breakthrough today when Christian negotiators accepted an Arab timetable for a limited Syrian withdrawal. The agency cites members of the committee of 17 as saying that after a talks lasting all last night the Christian members of this committee accepted the timetable drawn up by the Arab League.

An agreement was also reached for political reform of the Lebanese system that grants Muslims a bigger share of power. The parliamentary drafting committee is due to brief the members of the ministerial tripartite committee on last night's meeting. A draft agreement for a compromise formula of reforms will later be submitted to a plenary meeting of deputies. This agreement has been approved by the drafting committee.

Agreement on Muslim Authority

LD1210072189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] [Lebanese] Parliamentary circles said that members of the Lebanese parliament meeting in al-Ta'if have agreed in principle on an amended national reconciliation document which gives the Muslims a bigger share of authority. Parliamentary circles said that this agreement was reached following a meeting which went on until dawn today with representatives of the various parliamentary trends.

Magreb Union Meeting Creates New Commissions

LD1110185389 Algiers APS in English 1006 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, 11/10/89 (APS)—The works of the 3rd session of the follow up committee of the Union of Arab Maghreb ended Tuesday here by the signing of an agreement for the creation of four specialized ministerial commissions: the Commission of Food Security, the Commission of Economy and Finance, the Commission of Infrastructures and the Commission of Human Resources.

In addition to this important agreement which constituted the main axes of the meeting, the participants examined the possibility to establish relations with regional and international organizations and with the European Economic Community which is one of the first partners of the Maghreb countries.

This question was tackled under its various economic, political and social and cultural aspects. The stress was put on the necessity to defend Maghreb nationals living in countries of the community. The agreement on the creation of these commissions will be submitted to the Council of Foreign Ministers which in its turn will submit it to the Council of the Presidency of the union for adoption.

Communique Issued

LD1110095889 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The preparatory committee of the founding conference of the trade union of the workers of the Arab Maghreb released yesterday a communique on concluding its session pointing out that considering the struggle and sufferings as well as the persistence of these workers for a century to realize their unity, this preparatory committee held a meeting in Tripoli on 8-9 instant to achieve this historic task responsibly.

The communique adds that this committee has studied and drawn up the draft of the basic law of this union to be forwarded to the founding conference decided to be held in al-Dar al-Bayda' (Casablanca) on 6-7 next Al-Kanun month.

This draft proposal is up to the level of the aspirations of the struggle of the workers in the Arab Maghreb coming as a fruit of the strenuous efforts made over the last years and an enshiring of the sacrifices paid by the workers and their trade union leaderships to realize this great aspiration representing another step down the road of the overall Arab unity.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Monthly Message' to Palestinians

JN1110181689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1605 GMT 11 Oct 89

["Monthly message" from Yasir 'Arafat, "president of the state of Palestine," to "our masses inside and outside the occupied territory" on the 23d month of the intifadah; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and truly, God is most powerful for their aid; they are those who have been expelled from their homes in defiance of right, for no cause except that they say: "Our Lord is God." [Koranic verse] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God will certainly aid those who aid His cause; for truly, God is full of strength, exalted in might, and able to enforce His will. [Koranic verse]

O masses of the brave intifadah; O makers of the new Arab age; O heroes in heroic Gaza, in steadfast Nabulus, and in brave Bayt Sahur; O masses of our great people in the homeland and the exile: We are approaching the 3d year of the blessed intifadah of our people. In 2 months, we will complete the 2d year of the march of the epic-like brave resistance, which has become one of the most prominent methods of the contemporary world popular struggle. We are approaching the 3d year of the intifadah while our banners and heads are high, and our objective of freedom and independence is very, very close—closer than it was in the past.

We are approaching the 3d anniversary of the eruption of the volcano of our blessed popular intifadah while the brave masses of the intifadah are promoting their struggle and escalating their brave resistance. Our masses have upset the enemies' calculations, underscoring the facts that they created and asserting to everybody that the intifadah is a one-side road toward freedom, independence, and victory—toward our free and independent state.

During the past weeks, O men, women, youths, and brave children, you waged big and violent battles revolving around one definite point of conflict—that is, to affirm that the intifadah is a response to the occupation and its rules and laws, as well as to emphasize the objectives of freedom and independence. And the most prominent form of conflict was to impose the power of the people and the intifadah over the ruins of the power of the occupation, the power of repression. You have reinforced the rejection of the occupation decisions and challenged its power, affirming the power of the revolution and people through committees, structures, cadres, masses, institutions, and the Unified National Leadership, the Unified National Leadership [repeats himself].

Throughout the past weeks, you faced an unparalleled escalation by the fascist occupation. The occupation forces were terrified while watching this determination and belief in our masses, the people of the blessed intifadah. Thus, the occupation's brutal onslaught came as a new attempt to regain a prestige that has gone and will never return, as well as to terrify our kinfolk who will never be frightened.

You have waged the battle, and you are still waging it with high awareness and unique bravery, as well as in accordance with the distinguished militant program of your popular revolution and blessed intifadah under the Unified National Leadership. You have recorded one victory after another and inflicted one defeat after another on the Zionist occupation. You have built new bricks into the edifice of our national entity on the soil of the homeland and grandfathers, the soil of Palestine.

O heroic masses in lofty Gaza; O knights in the revolutionary Jabalyah, al-Maghazi, al-Nusayrat, al-Shati', Khan Yunus, al-'Aqqad, al-Bulukkat, Rafah, al-Burayj, Shatturah, Tall al-Sultan, Byat Hanun, and Bayt (?Lahya); O brave men in every position in the steadfast strip: Throughout the past weeks, you have waged one of the most violent battles against the Zionist occupation. Thanks to your legendary patience in the face of the plot of the magnetic identity cards, you dealt a new blow to the occupation, challenging the war of starvation and the siege imposed on the Strip and affirming the determination to wage the battle of national independence with every belief, determination, and will until victory.

The world has watched with admiration and appreciation your unique bravery while resisting the occupation and its schemes and asserting that the Palestinian people cannot be blackmailed and can challenge and confront the occupation to cut short all schemes.

The world watched the masses of our people as they rushed to support and to back the epic of steadfastness in heroic Gaza, which the enemy has been trying to humiliate and bring to its knees to deal the intifadah and the revolution a blow, while the latter defies humiliation, capitulation, and surrender, defies all conspiracies, is lofty in its martyrdom, and strong in its belief.

O our heroic masses in Nabulus; O brave strugglers in every camp, every neighorhood, every street, and home. Jabal al-Nar [Nabulus] has been increasing its flame and adherence and the intifadah has been increasing its entrenchment, strength, and glow in Nabulus, and in its cities, villages, and camps during the past weeks.

Increasing massive anger has been pelting down over the heads of the fascist occupiers. You, my beloved, through your steadfastness have broken the enemies' siege. They have become the ones besieged by this overflowing revolutionary stand. They were wagering on breaking your steadfastness and solidity. But what was the result? Steadfastness, defiance, fire, and glow. The despised occupation now feels exhaustion and incapacity. The Jabal al-Nar knights are and will remain as we have always known them: strong, steadfast and alert believers, and initiators until victory.

O masses of courageous Bayt Sahur; O women, men, youth, and children. The occupiers have targetted Bayt Sahur to punish it for its heroic stand, especially when it refused to pay the occupation taxes and threw the Israeli identity cards in the face of the Zionist occupiers. They thought they could break the will of the Bayt Sahur masses and isolate the city to their liking. The neo- Nazis carried out public and open robbery. The world saw the groups of the neo-barbarians as they stormed homes to empty them of everything they found, including the toys

and clothes of children. A siege was imposed on the city to prevent the world from watching one of the ugliest scenes of state terrorism: the terrorism of vandals.

However, Bayt Sahur had its response. The Bayt Sahur masses had their stand. You shouted in one voice, asserting: No taxes to the occupation, yes to the pangs of hunger, no to capitulation, yes to the intifadah, and yes to liberty. Your stand was a perfect example of our people's determination, will, steadfastness supported by solidarity and unity, and the loftiest standards of high-level coordination which the activity of the popular committees, structures, and institutions in the city are characterized by.

You were not alone, O my children. Everybody rushed to support you. You were not alone. The criminal operation was revealed before the whole world. The name of Bayt Sahur grew to become synonymous with insistence and affirmation of the intifadah's essence, development, and goal. This has been recorded by the resolution issued in the United Nations.

Our steadfast masses in southern Lebanon in the camps of pride and steadfastness, more and more steadfastness in the face of the balkanization conspiracy in the region starting with Lebanon and extending to the whole region—you represent the summit of sacrifice and strength in confronting it and the conspiracy of the Zionists and their allies against the whole of our Arab nation. You represent this protective shield.

O masses of the blessed intifadah; O children of my country; O women of my homeland and men of Palestine. You have waged the battles of the past weeks in the face of unprecedented, planned, and bestial escalation by the fascist occupation forces and the armed fascist herds of settlers. You confronted this escalation and faced the campaigns of detention, the crimes of killing and blowing up homes. You thwarted the attempts of the Zionist enemy to wrench away the reigns of the initiative in this violent struggle. You proved to the close and distant that these battles will only increase the determination, belief, and strength of the heroic masses.

This has been one of the most important junctures in the march of our national struggle and in the progress of the blessed intifadah, as it coincided with the fiercest and most serious political battle waged by our people. Thanks to your steadfastness, to the political program, and to our farsighted political moves, we have managed to score new accomplishments in favor of our people in this important battle.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And the nonbelievers plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God. [Koranic verse] We have asserted to the entire world that the PLO is the only agency that has the right to form a Palestinian delegation for dialogue in any negotiation conducive to the convocation of an international conference. We also reiterated that such a dialogue must have an open-ended agenda and be held without any preconditions to help reach a solution that would lead to the realization of the inalienable rights of our people. We have also asserted and continue to assert that any dialogue must be held under international auspices. We also said that it must be a part of a comprehensive and just solution.

The Israeli stand based on expansion has revealed to the world once again the rejection of the peace option by the ruling Israeli establishment. Thus, the world realized once again that the Palestinian peace initiative is the only possible option for moving toward peace. During the past few weeks, our people once again foiled the conspiracy that sought to foment doubts and divisions between their masses inside the occupied homeland and those outside this homeland. They declared once again that they are united, that they are an indivisible number, and that they remain loyal to the PLO.

During the past few weeks, our cause scored new political gains. At the nonaligned summit in Belgrade, we witnessed large-scale support for the Palestinian peace initiative and saw Zionism and its practices condemned. In addition, we registered a big and important victory at the United Nations through the condemnation of Israeli crimes expressed by the draft resolution adopted calling for protecting our people. This draft resolution secured an international consensus. Only the United States and Israel, its ally, opposed this draft resolution. Moreover, our talks in Japan scored a great success. Friendly China also strongly reiterated its backing for us and its principled and firm stand in support of our people's cause. Similar successes have been scored in Berlin, Bucharest, Africa, the nonaligned states, and the EEC states. The world campaign criticizing the intransigent Israeli stand has gained momentum. Even Israel's closest friends participated in this campaign.

The U.S. stand of unlimited support for Israel has become bare and exposed, showing the United States before the world as siding with the Zionist tyrants and condoning the Israeli crimes and the fascist Israeli practices at a time when it claims to be concerned with human rights everywhere. However, the United States maintains silence over the human rights situation in Palestine where a process of systematic killing and terrorism is being carried out with its support, funds, and weapons. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

O courageous people of the intifadah: While coming close to the second intifadah anniversary, we realize that the frightened enemies will resort to acts of further brutal escalation. However, our confidence in ourselves and in the capabilities of our masses makes us believe that we are capable of facing up to this escalation. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of God and your enemies. [Koranic verse]

The upcoming phase requires further alertness and caution. The motto of this phase remains the enhancement of our unified ranks so that all forces, figures, and currents fuse in the melting pot of the intifadah. We must show uncompromising compliance with and abidance by the program of the Unified National Leadership whose work and success are a source of pride to our people. We must also continue to bolster the people's authority to make it replace the occupation authorities through reinvigorating and expanding the popular committees and the specialized committees and bodies; through completing the establishment of higher councils for various sectors; through activating their roles and enhancing the roles of quality control committees and mass structures; and through bolstering revolutionary discipline and national institutions. I am here particularly speaking about charity committees and trade and professional unions.

The Palestinian leadership has recently issued instructions to unify the various names given to the strike force formations so that the unified name would become the strike forces and groups. It also issued instructions so that slogans will be signed in the name of the Unified National Leadership and so that the martyrs' families will be adopted by the Unified National Leadership for the sake of bolstering national unity, which is the basis of the intifadah and its strong fence, as well as its guarantee for victory. The Palestinian leadership has also stressed that all pursued groups of struggling brothers should join the strike forces. It stressed that gradual steps should be taken to deal with those who went astray and accepted dealing with the occupiers. Therefore, it stressed the need to exhaust all means of persuasion, repentance, pressure, and popular deterrence with them, and any decision regarding them should be taken at the highest leadership level in order to avert any mistakes that may be exploited by the occupiers. Let us remember what happened to our popular revolution and intifadah during the 1936 and 1939 strikes as a result of this.

O people of the valiant intifadah, O female and male strugglers of the Unified National Leadership, the popular committees, the strike forces, the higher councils, the youth cadres, students, women, workers, peasants, professionals, craftsmen, merchants, academics, and employees. O cavaliers of the revolution and intifadah in the occupation prisons, our valiant people who sustained wounds in confrontations, heroes of the revolution of stones—our new generals in the triumphant march: With your intifadah you make a new history for your people and nation and create new facts in the world. A few days ago, the most important strategic institute in the world paid tribute to your miraculous deeds. The annual report of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London said the intifadah had asserted itself and emphasized the difficulty of outflanking it. It continued to be lofty while the Israeli military apparatus was dwarfed. It liberated the Palestinian individual from the complex of fear and upset the legend of the invincible Israeli Army. It created many problems for the Israeli military apparatus. This is a neutral testimony in which our people, revolutionaries, and cadres take pride.

O hero cavaliers, let us continue and escalate our intifadah. Let us bolster our national unity. Let us intensify our blows to the occupiers. Let us heighten the edifice of our popular committees and mass cadres. It is an intifadah until the state is established and steadfastness until victory. Let the revolution continue until the Palestinian flag is raised over the hills of Jerusalem, the first qiblah and third holy place—the city to which Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, made his midnight journey, and the cradle of Christ, God's peace be upon him. Dawn is coming, coming; victory is coming, coming; and the state is within a stone's throw away. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And it was due from us to aid those who believed. If God helps you, none can overcome you. [Koranic verses] It is a revolution until victory.

'Arafat Sends 'Important' Message to Thatcher

JN1110210189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1922 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent an important message to British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher. This came when Brother leader Abu-'Ammar yesterday received David Gore-Booth, British deputy foreign secretary [name and title as heard], with whom he reviewed the dangerous events in the Middle East, especially the criminal Israeli escalation against our people in our occupied homeland. Brother leader Abu-'Ammar also acquainted Mr Gore-Booth with the Zionist occupation authorities' attempts to impose all forms of siege and starvation to defeat our people.

Mr Gore-Booth expressed his own anxiety and that of his government toward the deterioration of the situation in our occupied land. He affirmed his government's anxiety about Shamir's rejection of the peace efforts toward which brave steps were taken by the PLO under leader President Abu-'Ammar to push the peace process forward.

Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar asked Mr Gore-Booth to convey his congratulations to Foreign Secretary John Major whom he had met in Beirut. He also asked him to convey his greetings to Minister of State Waldegrave.

Leadership Adopts Measures on Territories

JN0910193189 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] It was announced today that the Palestinian leadership has adopted a number of decisions to confront the situation in the occupied territories, especially the Israeli escalation of measures against the Palestinian

people, the military siege, and the starvation policy imposed on several areas of the occupied territories.

These decisions were adopted during a meeting held by the Palestinian leadership last night under brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to discuss the situation in the occupied territories.

The meeting was attended by the PLO Executive Committee members, the Fatah Central Committee members, brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, officials in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and leaders of the other Palestinian factions. The leadership expressed its appreciation for and satisfaction with the recent decision issued by the UN General Assembly condemning the criminal Israeli practices against the Palestinian people.

Kuwaiti Paper on Leadership Meeting in Tunis

JN1110203789 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Oct 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—The Tunisian capital witnessed Palestinian meetings at the highest level the night before last and yesterday, Monday. Leaders of Palestinian factions affiliated with the PLO and the Executive Committee began meetings the night before last immediately upon Yasir 'Arafat's return from a tour of Japan, China, East Germany, and Romania during which he met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the Executive Committee and secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front, disclosed that the leadership has set up a committee incorporating all Palestinian factions in order to draft a working paper that will be presented at a meeting to be held today, Tuesday, to reach a final agreement on a new plan for a Palestinian political move in light of the recent variables, particularly the Israeli rejection of the 10 points proposed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as well as all other peace initiatives, and the U.S. stand hostile to the Palestinian national rights.

'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad added that toward the end of their meetings, the Palestinian leaders and the Executive Committee will submit a report to the Central Council, scheduled to meet in Baghdad on 15 October. The report will include the plan to be agreed upon.

Asked about the nature of the proposed plan, the Palestinian leader said that the PLO political plan issued by the National Council's 19th session and set forth by 'Arafat at the UN General Assembly late last year will be taken into consideration. He said that the Arab and international situation will also be taken into consideration.

Other sources participating in the meeting said that 'Arafat briefed the conferees on his recent contacts, particularly with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

The sources explained that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has also reviewed his contacts with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during the UN General Assembly sessions in New York.

Within the same context, the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, said that Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and other PFLP representatives participated in the meetings. WAFA indicated that the Palestinian leadership has made a number of decisions to tackle the situation in the occupied territories.

WAFA noted that the Palestinian leadership held the United States responsible for enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's refusal to hold peace talks with the Palestinians.

'Abd-Rabbuh Announces Rejection of Baker 'Plan'

JN1210121089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Dubayy, 12 Oct (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has announced that the PLO has rejected the U.S. 5-point plan proposed to Egypt and Israel by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

In a statement to the Dubayy-based AL-BAYAN newspaper published today, 'Abd-Rabbuh said the U.S. plan does not constitute a way out; it constitutes U.S. support for the Israeli position.

He stressed that the issue of Palestinian representation through the PLO is nonnegotiable either with the Americans, the Israelis, or within the framework of the proposed trilateral meeting among the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel.

He stressed that the PLO is the party to determine the members of the Palestinian delegation, from inside and outside the occupied territories, to the talks with Israel. The dialogue, he added, must be a step within the framework of preparations for the convening of the international peace conference, and must be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, not on Shamir's election plan, which the PLO has rejected, or Egypt's 10 points.

The Palestinian official described Baker's proposals as a rescue line thrown out by the United States to get Shamir's plan out of its stalemate and to break Israel's isolation.

'Abd-Rabbuh on 'Deadlocked' Talks With U.S.

PM1110154089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Oct 89 p 3

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Muhammad Sadiq in New York; date not given]

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO delegation in the official open dialogue with the United States which began in mid-December, has stated that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is still moving in a vicious circle and still deadlocked and fruitless. The reason for that, he added, is the U.S. refusal to commit itself to the internationally accepted principles for the settlement of the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian question, and the fact that the United States approaches the issue from an Israeli angle and has still not indicated how the peace process could be activated.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that it is not a question of stopping the dialogue, because in international relations there is no such thing as stopping the dialogue between the parties concerned with a conflict. He said: We are trying to make it a serious and effective dialogue, which basically means that the American side should start tackling essential issues seriously.

He added: At the top of these essential issues are, first, the question of peace negotiations within the framework of an international conference and, second, clear and frank recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, especially their right to self-determination. That would give the dialogue a new meaning and remove it from the vicious circle we are now in.

He also said: Although no arrangements have been made for a new meeting or a new session of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, we will request such a meeting in the near future and will ask the U.S. side to submit clarifications on a number of issues, particularly in view of the recent contacts which ended in complete failure because of the Israeli position and the U.S. support for that position. We will also ask the United States to state its position regarding Israeli policy and the issues I have mentioned.

He denied that he or any other Palestinian official tried to contact U.S. officials while in New York and also denied any contact "between us and the Americans at the United Nations or outside the United Nations."

On the question of an entry visa to the United States for Yasir 'Arafat, he said: It would become 'Arafat's right if we decide it is necessary for him to address the United Nations in his capacity as president of the Palestinian state. No decision has been made in this connection so far, he said, adding that delaying the decision is a result not of the U.S. position but of the need for us to study and consider whether such a step would serve our national cause.

On the list of Palestinian names for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, he said there is no list of names and we have submitted no names. When it is decided to form a Palestinian delegation, the PLO will approve the chosen delegation if there is to be a dialogue, which is actually a Soviet idea originally submitted by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during his visit to Cairo in February.

With regard to Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, the 10 points, the recent efforts, and Israel's rejection, he said: The United States used to talk about the initiation of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, but because of Israel's rejection of the idea, the United States is now trying to empty the issue of its substance in order to impose Israel's terms on the other parties.

'Abd-Rabbuh strongly denied that the PLO would agree to a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue unless it is a preparatory step on the way to an international peace conference. For that to happen certain conditions for such a dialogue must be fulfilled, such as, for example, that it be on equal footing and based on international resolutions. Obviously, he said, it is the PLO that must form the Palestinian delegation to represent the Palestinian people's will, from people inside and outside the occupied territory.

With regard to the fact that this idea differs from the U.S. idea that the purpose of the dialogue is to discuss Shamir's election plan, he said: That is completely out of the question because the agenda cannot be predetermined and Shamir's plan cannot be a basis for discussion, because Shamir plan's only aim is to hit the intifadah and to have Palestinian rights discussed again in the Camp David context. Any dialogue must have an open agenda and must be based on UN resolutions, which in essence call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory and for fulfillment of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Referring to the failure of recent efforts and the next step after Israel's open rejection of these efforts and of the 10 points, he said: These efforts achieved no tangible results because of Israel's complete rejection of all proposals and ideas aimed at boosting the peace process and because of the U.S. support for that Israeli position. Therefore, in the absence of Arab and international pressure on the United States and Israel, we will remain in the same vicious circle.

He added that united Arab action is most important. The Casablanca summit resolutions, he said, provided a good foundation. He added that Arab coordination is important—particularly after the positive and advanced position adopted by Europe—as is Arab coordination with the Soviet Union and the nonaligned and African states in order to exert such pressure.

Assuming that the United States is pinning its hopes on Peres and the Labor Party, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that Peres is now completely bankrupt and the Labor Party's role is to provide cover for the Likud policies and to participate

in the Likud's crime against our people. Any talk of an anticipated role by the Labor Party is a waste of time.

U.S. Blamed for Israeli Rejection of 10 Points

JN0910205889 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 8 Oct 89 p 14

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The PLO hold the United States responsible for Israel's rejection of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's proposals and all peace efforts. It stressed that the Palestinians do not wager on the Israeli and American stand, but on the popular Palestinian intifadah and its continuation as it is capable of effecting interactions.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah Hurani said the PLO does not expect the United States, which supports Israel's policy and antagonizes national Palestinian rights, to be a suitable mediator in any search for peace because it does not abide by what is right, nor work for a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

In his reply to the Israeli rejection of Mubarak's proposals and the U.S. vote against a UN General Assembly resolution condemning Israel's violation of Palestinian human rights, Hurani said the United States has not responded to the Palestinian peace initiative and thus encouraged Israel to be more intransigent. He stressed that Israel's rejection of the 10 Egyptian points and the proposal to hold a preliminary Israeli-Palestinian dialogue did not surprise the Palestinian leadership.

Hurani indicated that the Israeli stand has so far reflected a defiance of the will of the international community. He added that even if this stand changes in the future, it will not change in an acceptable manner on the basis of which a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue can be held. Any change will be a mere tactic which will not change the nature of Israel's anti-peace orientations.

The PLO Executive Committee member indicated that the Palestinian side viewed the proposal of holding dialogue with Israel as a step toward an international conference and not far from the framework of the United Nations and international legality. He wondered: Can Israel respond to any mediations on these bases?

Asked about the next PLO step now that the Israeli stand has been clarified, Hurani said the first and last bet is on the popular intifadah and its continuation as it is capable of effecting interactions whether inside Israel or on the international level. Besides, he added, the PLO sticks to its political stand which is based on adherence to the firm aims and principles, pointing out that this does not mean canceling Palestinian flexibility. He called for reactivating the Arab political movement, which he said is still below the level required to help the Palestinians restore their rights.

'Abdallah Hurani disclosed the contents of the recent meeting between the Palestinian ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi and U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and said the latter wished to inform the Palestinian side of the results of the recent contacts held in Washington with various parties, indicating that the U.S. stand toward the Palestine question is still as it was.

PLO, Egypt Consult on 'Principles' of Dialogue

JN0810113089 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Today's issue of the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD says that important contacts and consultations have been held at UN Headquarters between the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations during the past few hours to coordinate stands in view of the enemy government's rejection of the Egyptian proposal to hold a dialogue with a Palestinian delegation.

The paper adds that these consultations resulted in the crystallization of several basic principles governing the current Egyptian-Palestinian efforts. The paper goes on to say that the first of these principles states that the Egyptian-Palestinian efforts will continue in a bid to further encircle the enemy government and force it to enter into negotiations with a Palestinian delegation without any preconditions. The second of these principles stipulates that Egypt and the PLO reject the selection of the Palestinian delegation members through Israeli-Egyptian consultations, AL-ITTIHAD says. The third of these principles states that only the Palestinians will select the delegation to the proposed dialogue, the paper adds. [passage omitted]

Khalaf Says U.S. Not Pressuring Israel Enough

LD0810121489 Kuwait KUNA in English 0956 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 8 (KUNA)—Member of the Palestinian Fatah Central Committee Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) Sunday was quoted here as warning against Israel's obstinacy towards finding a solution to the Palestinian question.

In an interview with daily "AL-ANBA'" published today, Khalaf said that the United States does not put enough pressure on its main ally in the Middle East to change its obstinate stance.

He added that Israel doesn't want to reach a solution at the present, and the US for its part is not trying enough to make Israel change its stance based on dissolving the PLO and the right to self-determination as well as the Palestinian right to return to their homeland.

He affirmed that the continuation of the Lebanese crisis reflects negatively on the Palestinian cause.

He noted that it is in the interest of the PLO to end the Lebanese problems for the sake of the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Khalaf hailed the Arab tripartite committees' efforts on Lebanon, and described the Lebanese parliamentary meeting in al-Ta'if Saudi Arabia, as an important step toward ending the Lebanese crisis.

The Palestine official expressed hope to reach a lasting ceasefire in Lebanon, and noted that the PLO will welcome any kind of agreement between the conflicting parties for the sake of stability of that war torn country.

Regarding the Syrian-Palestinian relations Khalaf said that the differences are not political, yet it includes the principles, and the organizational issues.

As for the issues which will be discussed in the PLO Central Council meeting on October 15 in Baghdad, Khalaf said that there are three main issues on the agenda, including the current political situation the popular uprising, and calling the Palestine National Council (PNC) to hold an emergency session to discuss the political dilemma of the Middle East.

Al-Hasan on New Political Activity Plan

NC1010133389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, 10 Oct (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, member of the foreign relations committee of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and member of the Fatah Central Committee, has declared that the Palestinian Central Council will shortly meet in Baghdad to discuss a plan for new PLO political activity in light of Israeli arrogance and intransigence and the U.S. hesitation and public support for the Israeli stand.

Khalid al-Hasan said that the new Palestinian political activity plan was prepared during the recent meetings of the Palestinian leaders under Yasir 'Arafat. The Palestinian leaders discussed the outcome of the Mubarak-'Arafat meetings, as well as the results of President Mubarak's visit to Washington and his meeting with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, Al-Hasan said: Although we believe in the resolutions passed by the PNC during its last session in Algiers, everyone must realize that we will not kneel down to achieve these aims. He said: Independence does not come about by bowing down and accepting insults, but by standing up with pride and dignity and by continued struggle on the part of all honorable people in the world.

Apparently Al-Hasan was referring to the claim made by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin following Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's rejection of the 10-point Egyptian plan that Shamir wants the Arabs to come to him "on their knees."

Al-Hasan said that stalling is a game that works two ways. He added that any attempt to weaken the intifadah by procrastination is an impossible dream at the present time, especially since the events in Bayt Sahur have strengthened the will to struggle and endure.

He went on to say that the Arab silence about what happened in Bayt Sahur is a blow to Arab dignity. He called on the Arab masses to declare their solidarity with the inhabitants of Bayt Sahur so that the latter may realize they have brothers who support them and compensate them for what the Israeli imperialists have taken away from them. The Arab masses must support the inhabitants of Bayt Sahur in their ordeal because the intifadah is a sacred movement which must continue, he declared.

It should be mentioned that the Israeli occupation authorities have confiscated goods, cars, and furniture worth $3 million from the town of Bayt Sahur because the inhabitants have refused to pay taxes since the beginning of the intifadah 22 months ago. The Israeli authorities have isolated Bayt Sahur and prevented the consuls of six European states from visiting the town and finding out about the situation there.

PFLP's Habash Issues Statement on Intifadah

LD0810142789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1209 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, Oct 8 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Dr. George Habash has warned against political attempts to contain and liquidate the Palestinian uprising.

In a statement on the occasion of the uprising's 23rd month, he called for rejecting all currently tabled political plans and initiatives on the Palestinian question.

The Palestinian people did not entrust anyone to speak on his behalf, Habash asserted, adding that the Palestinians will continue struggle until winning their goals of freedom and independence.

The PFLP leader expressed confidence that the Palestinian masses will find a way to foil and confront repercussions of the Israeli measures of firing at masked youth during demonstrations.

Habash warned against Israeli occupation attempts to ignite strife among ranks of the Palestinian people and called for developing national production projects to face the war of famine and siege waged by the occupation.

The PFLP secretary general asked the Arab leaderships to live up to their pledges and resolutions to support the Palestinian people and intifadah politically and materially.

Radio Analyzes Dialogue With Israel, 10 Points

JN1010202289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1746 GMT 9 Oct 89

[News analysis by radio correspondent: "No Peace Without the PLO"]

[Text] Dear brothers: With the outbreak of our glorious Palestinian intifadah, the PLO, notably at the Palestine National Council session in November 1988, launched its political program for peace. This program was clear, specific, and without equivocation. The essence of this plan is a readiness to reach a settlement to achieve a durable and just peace on the basis of a solution envisaging two states for two peoples as the minimum demand of the intifadah and of the Palestinian people in light of the current Arab, regional, and international cirumstances. The PLO has called upon the occupation authorities to recognize our Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state through recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people and by the acceptance of an international peace conference as the framework for peace.

This program has won wide Arab and international backing and support. The Palestinian position on the prospects, basis, framework, and rules of the solution is crystal clear. When the elections idea was proposed, the PLO clarified its view on this idea on the basis of a comprehensive political solution. The sticking point has thus become the Israeli position and its supporters; namely, the U.S. Administration. The Zionist occupation authorities and the U.S Administration maintain, and have continued to maintain up until now, a well-known official stance. This stance is the result of their espousal of the Shamir plan, despite all the talk on the 10 Egyptian points and the attempts to make a step forward based on them.

We affirm today, while the glorious popular Palestinian intifadah is entering its 23d month and while those conducting it are determined to continue and escalate the intifadah, that the Zionist occupation must accept the principles governing Palestinian policy if a durable and just peace is to be achieved in this region. These principles are the following: Recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people; recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including their right to establish their independent state; and accepting the idea of an international peace conference as an international framework for a solution.

Meeting these conditions will facilitate an agreement on the details of a just and durable solution and also on its future mechanisms. The affirmation of these political terms is not prompted by the expectation on our part of the possibility of holding this dialogue or meeting soon. On the contrary, the recent series of events has shown that the Shamir government is not expected to respond favorably to any calls for real peace. This failure to heed calls for peace has also been demonstrated by overlooking the Mubarak queries. Furthermore, we also believe that this government cannot accept Shevardnadze's offer of a meeting with the PLO in Moscow.

However, we will now touch on an important issue by articulating the bases and determining factors of the Palestinian position on the issues under discussion. We would like to say that this proposed meeting or dialogue must be held at one of the UN Headquarters venues to consecrate the international auspices and supervision of the solution. What remains to be said is that putting the elections at the forefront of the current discussions and the call for a direct dialogue must be placed in thier proper context and viewed as a specific step and link in the comprehensive political solution.

Furthermore, the guarantees demanded by the PLO for holding democratic elections must be met. Foremost among these guarantees are the following: Israeli withdrawal from the territories; international supervision of balloting centers; participation in the elections by the residents of Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine; and the dismantling of settlements. In addition, the election results must be part of a future step involving negotiations between an official PLO delegation to be chosen by the PLO itself, without interference, and the Israeli Government, within the framework of an international conference to discuss the mechanisms of attaining an Israeli troop withdrawal and enabling our people to exercise their sovereignty on their national soil.

Our position is as clear as the sun in the sky. The problem lies in the intransigent Zionist stance which is supported by the United States. For this reason, the emphasis on stepping up the intifadah against the Zionist occupation is important. The march of the intifadah will sweep away any plan that ignores our people's demands and rights. Only the fists of children, the heroes of the intifadah, who are defending our people against the beasts of the Zionist occupation army and the herds of settlers, can create real opportunities for the dawning of independence and the emergence of the independent Palestinian state.

Commentary Assesses Upcoming Ross Mideast Tour

LD0910215789 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. State Department has announced that in the next few days it will send Dennis Ross, head of Political Planning in the U.S. State Department, as a special envoy to the Middle East. According to the State Department's announcement, his mission is aimed at reactivating the consultations to begin an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on the proposed elections for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in light of the Israeli rejection of the recent Egyptian queries.

It appears that the purpose of the tour is not—as the U.S. State Department said—to reactivate the peace process, but is rather an attempt to reconcile two sides of the same coin in Israel: Labor and Likud. These two parties have shown a difference in their stands with regard to the mechanism for holding elections, which was put forward by Shamir and approved by the Israeli Government. The results achieved by the Israeli Inner Cabinet which rejected the Egyptian proposals—despite the Palestinian reservations and remarks voiced over them—are the natural outcome of the U.S. policy of adulation and flattery of the Israeli stands. There are also the results of the free (?appraisals) which Washington makes for the Tel Aviv rulers without applying any pressure which might influence the Israeli decisions. This has led the Israeli leaders to demonstrate more obstinacy and to reject any peaceful move.

There is another aspect to the Ross tour, namely that it is a desperate attempt to restore what is left of the U.S. credibility which Israel's Government has trampled in the mud. It is credibility that Ross, or Baker, or even Bush cannot restore with a tour, or a speech, if the words are not matched with deeds. We believe words should be translated into effective pressures that will force Israel's leaders to change their policies and abandon their dreadful obstinacy regarding the progress of the peace process. Thus—and in light of these clear aims of Ross' mission—the results his tour of the region could have brought about will have vanished, especially because the U.S. Administration is still adopting a policy of boot-licking in regard to Israel, for which it provides an umbrella to protect it against any international criticism of its policy in the occupied land.

OPEC Affairs

OAPEC Secretary General Cited on Demand for Oil

JN0710163189 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, Oct 7 (GNA)—Secretary General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Wattari has expected that demand for energy would increase at the coming stage giving more importance to Arab oil and opening wide opportunities for Arab investments.

In an interview with Qatari newspaper 'AL-RAYAH' published today, Al-Wattari underlined the importance of cooperation and integration among arab countries in oil industries, noting that OPEC [as received] was still striving to achieve that end.

He described the refining industry as one of the most important stages of oil industry in these countries, stressing that investment in this sector was far important [as received] than investment in the production industry.

Al-Wattari said the Arab oil reserves and the production were good. He added that OAPEC's Executive Bureau and the ministerial council discussed at meetings held recently all matters related to the industry, explaining that investment in this sector over the past ten years exceeded US dollars 20 billion.

Asked about prices Al-Wattari affirmed OAPEC member countries' commitment to prices set by OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries).

Answering a question on the issue of energy in the Arab world Al-Wattari explained that the organization's council discussed the issue recently and the issue was considered at the Arab energy conference which he described as a comprehensive Arab dialogue between producers and consumers. He noted that the next conference will be held in Jordan in 1992 on the enviornment and its impact on Arab oil industry.

Al-Wattari meanwhile held the industrialized countries responsible for environmental pollution. He said the industrialized countries through their industrial process over the past 100 years were the major cause for an unacceptable environment in the world underlining that these countries should play the major role in clearing the environment.

Al-Wattari also called for finding a solution to desertification to solve the environmental problems and underlined the importance of oil and gas as alternatives which are less harmful than coal and nuclear energy.

Algeria

Bendjedid Interviewed on Regional Trends

PM0510091289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Oct 89 pp 5-8

[Interview with President Chadli Bendjedid by 'Uthman al-'Umayr and Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Interviewer] Democratic development and changes are continuing in your country. Where is that line heading, and where are you leading your country, Algeria?

[Bendjedid] In fact the developments that the country has witnessed in recent years are nothing new; there has been a succession of them. To complete the picture of what we have achieved we must go back a little and talk about the developments that Algeria witnessed during that period. I believe that no Third World country has witnessed political developments and changes—both negative and positive—such as those witnessed by Algeria over such a short period in the state's life: 26 years. If we look at Algeria since independence up to the present, we will see that it has gone through many developments. We also believed after independence that it was essential to think about a centralized system, for which there are objective reasons, such as a lack of a framework, lack of experience, and lack of resources. This is why we decided to centralize decisionmaking in the management of affairs. This, because we had just emerged from a war that lasted 7 and ½ years, which resulted in various contradictions within the [National] Liberation Front [FLN] at the time. [passage omitted]

Of course today, now that the majority of the people have endorsed the reforms, I have no justification for citing difficulties. We are here to tackle difficulties. So these reforms will meet the guidelines set for them, proceeding from the principles of the new constitution. We will proceed in that direction in order to establish the foundations and laws for exercising a genuine democracy, because democracy is composed of several links and if one link is missing, it is not a democracy. Some say that democracy can be exercised in one aspect and not in another. Matters must be made crystal clear in order to make such a task a success. Whoever tries to hide behind a secret—the state or anything else—must be exposed. By such an approach, anyone—a minister, a manager, or any official at any level—who wants to shoulder a certain responsibility tomorrow will have to be very careful, because eyes will be focused on him and the people will be watching him. So if he makes an error, he will be exposed by the opposition parties. The people's methods of control vary, and that is how the future will be: based on frankness and openness in running the affairs and destroying the power monopoly. These are among the basic principles for exercising a true democracy, and that is Algeria's future.

Of course various options remain. I cannot talk about options. I say that the Algerian people are a sovereign people. So if they want to build socialism, let them elect their representatives. If they secure a good majority in parliament, then they can then present a program, form a government, and implement that policy. If the Algerian people want to implement communism, then let the Communists form a majority in parliament. If they want to implement the Islamic Shari'ah, then they are free to do that as well. They must achieve an overwhelming majority and implement such a policy in a democratic way and according to the Algerian people's wishes. I am not at all willing to impose socialism, communism, or the Islamic Shari'ah through a presidential decree or a constitutional article. That is, I will not decide for the Algerian people. That happened in the past under certain conditions to which I have referred. We said: We must head in that direction. But today the Algerian people have reached a certain degree of political maturity. Those was born in 1962 are now 27, grown men. So we have ended the policy of paternalism and guardianship and are now turning to the policy of responsibility and of creating channels and foundations for the Algerian people to enable them to express their opinion in a sound way via the available structures.

[Interviewer] Mr President, are you not afraid that certain groups could exploit democracy for certain ends that could harm the country?

[Bendjedid] I have said on several occasions: We cannot resolve Algeria's problems solely through political and economic reforms and new working methods. We say, this is the alternative. There is a new stage which differs from the previous ones.

There are conditions and rules for democratic practice. There are also shortcomings in it, especially in a society which still does not understand what democracy is. Some elements have formed parties, some are thinking about it, while others are outside this, trying to disturb the atmosphere with a view to settling scores. They are starting to stir up problems that could harm the homeland. But I say that democracy has rules and is governed by laws. When such laws are passed, things will be clear and everyone's responsibility and confines in the democratic process will also be clear. The state has the capability and means for punishing people under the law—not according to revolutionary legitimacy, as was the case in the past, when some people were humiliated and, following inquiries and investigation, were ascertained to be innocent. That is, they were unjustly treated. But now everyone know his boundaries under the law. If he exceeds them and violates others' boundaries, the state stops him by using the law. I say that the tasks are not easy. We are at the beginning of the democratic process, and everyone must know that a person's freedom ends where others' freedom starts. [passage omitted]

I say we still face problems characteristic of Third World countries. They are the problems of a society which has

long developed in a certain way and then abandoned that method. Some regard democracy as chaos, and believe that everyone can do whatever they want in the name of democracy. We say "no" to that concept. We understand the problems and difficulties that confront, and will continue to confront, us. But we are certain that this is the right path. The establishment of the principles in question requires efforts and the mobilization of all, including parties, mass organizations, institutions, and associations.

[Interviewer] So far, Mr President, the state has been based on historical legitimacy, which you termed revolutionary legitimacy...

[Bendjedid] (Interrupting) Revolutionary legitimacy has no influence.

[Interviewer] Now it is based on legal legitimacy; but will the revolutionary legitimacy disappear and make way for the new legitimacy? Or will it still be accommodated?

[Bendjedid] Of course revolutionary legitimacy will have no influence. It will have influence at the party level. If a party wants to pursue a particular policy under revolutionary legitimacy, then it is its own affair. But for it to replace the law: No. Every party, whether the FLN or any other, has the right to pursue a particular revolutionary political approach. But for revolutionary legitimacy to be understood in terms of imposing views on others or on Algerian society by force, we have transcended that and moved on from that stage to another stage—that of legal legitimacy. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Mr President, why did you dismiss the government so quickly?

[Bendjedid] With regard to the government, in fact I did not have many options at the beginning. After the reforms I had to look for someone with experience, someone capable of confronting and tackling problems. Of course I am someone who consults others and listens to their views. Some people may think that I remain within my own four walls and make decisions that way. Before I make any decision I consult and listen to others. With regard to political and economic reforms, as well as the Constitution, I consulted other people. Although a national group worked hard to plan these reforms, I consulted many people from various Algerian organizations.

For the record, I will tell you that when I appointed Merbah as health minister I told him: That sector has problems, but I hope you will succeed in it and manage to organize it in order to open the doors for yourself in the future. I also told him: You know, I have not forgotten what I said when the Constitution was changed. With regard to that person, just as some people have only one face, there are others who change like a chameleon. Never mind. I recalled what I had told him and the period over which I knew him, both in the Army and in the government: He was a disciplined person. Whenever I said something, he always said: "yes." So I said to myself: The present stage requires someone who is experienced, especially since there is a security problem, and a prime minister like this could have the capabilities, and perhaps the means, to fulfill the country's security and stability requirements until we resolve our problems. But people miscalculated. This, in the knowledge that—as he admitted—I had told him: I am ready to appoint you prime minister. Do you agree to this policy—the application of political and economic reforms? He told me: I agree. I told him: Fine, then prepare your program and go to the council. I will help you and you will have complete freedom and confidence.

But instead of paying attention to the economic and social issues and to resolving social, economic, and cultural problems, he abandoned all this and concentrated on politics, in the narrow personal sense. Everyone has the right to be ambitious, but his ambitions must be lawful through his work in the field—and that will be judged by the people. But he started to evade anything that is subject to criticism. With regard to the laws, I had to refer to the Constitutional Council or return them to the Council for a second reading. Whereas I as president was not supposed to do that. The government should have done the defending. It should have said: This is unconstitutional, so do not accept it. But it escaped and allowed deputies to pass whatever laws they wanted—laws that sometimes conflicted with the Constitution. The aim was to appease deputies. Furthermore, matters did not improve. In fact the opposite happened: Matters deteriorated. Therefore, having given him an opportunity, in which he failed, I told him: Submit your resignation, otherwise I will tell you that your mission has ended.

Some say there is a conflict. That is untrue. There is no conflict. No one is equal to me: I am here in response to the Algerian people's desire and will, and the Constitution give me the power to do this. It is I who appointed him, so it is for me to dismiss him. Some say that the Constitution is ambiguous with regard to the future and could cause problems. That too is untrue. If a party other than the FLN secures a parliamentary majority tomorrow, I would appoint a prime minister from that party. And he will be free to exclusively choose his government from his party or from another party or front, and then implement his program. It will be up to him. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Let us return to the Front. Mr President, you spoke to us about the FLN's role in the system and the state. I would like to ask about President Chadli Bendjedid's role in the Front.

[Bendjedid] Actually it was I who invented the post of Front chairman at the sixth congress, because the group wanted to keep matters as they were, with me remaining as secretary general. So I told them that this was quite impossible. The FLN must have a leadership accountable to the congress. So it is better for the Central Committee secretary general run the Front's affairs and to submit reports on which he would be questioned by

both the Central Committee and the congress with regard to the objectives set. This is with the Front chairman remaining as a symbol of the unity of the FLN's strugglers. This position could be acceptable to me at this stage, but I do not believe it will be acceptable in the future. If a party secretary general runs for the presidency and is elected president of the republic, then he must relinquish his post as secretary general. Then his party will back the government which he will form and will of course back the president, who of course remains a member, but without retaining his party post. That applies to all parties.

For my own part, I have belonged to the FLN since its establishment, and I cannot abandon or replace it. Whether or not I am the chairman of the Front, my feelings are for the Front. But I am also the president of all Algerians, even those who voted against me. And as president, I will never allow the other parties to be insulted by the party to which I belong. I will never accept that. I will ensure that the Algerian state's constitutional and legal stipulations are respected and implemented. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] We know that without your go-ahead the recent FLN cadres seminar would not have been held. But despite that we noted that you remained somewhat aloof, which raised questions about your real attitude to it.

[Bendjedid] I did not want to embarrass people. When the subject of these seminars—not just the old officials' seminar, but all the other specialized seminars—was raised, I said: What is the point of all these seminars? I was not enthusiastic about them. Frankly from the very outset until the Central Committee meeting, I was not enthusiastic about them. But I did not object. If there is a desire for this, all well and good. But my attendance would mean that I am making that seminar or those seminars official. Actual combatants at the grassroots level would believe that the seminar and that group had been recommended by the the president of the Republic, the Front's chairman. I am not prepared to recommend these people, because their return to the FLN could cause misunderstanding among the combatants. This, because they say that The FLN was destroyed by the former officials. How can they be returned today? I do not want to embarrass anyone. If they want to bring them to the congress, I will not object, though I am not enthusiastic about it. Democracy is the basis, so people can express their views but cannot impose them. It is the participants who will decide. I was not enthusiastic, which is why I did not attend.

It was a group—not everyone—that wanted to put the regime on trial, but the people know that everyone shares responsibility. The FLN's course since 1979 is known. I was the Front's secretary general, but I also had other duties. The group responsible in the Front ran affairs as way they wanted. In fact it was exhausted. I say: The party cannot be run in this way, bureaucratically. We must get down to basics and reduce the existing bureaucratic structures. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Mr President, in a few days it will be a year since the October incidents, which confused the world: The sequence of events, crises, and tension about which you have kindly spoken indicated that they were expected, but everyone was surprised at the gravity of the incidents and your response to them.

[Bendjedid] I did indeed sense that phenomenon and alerted everyone to it. But some people ignored it. Furthermore, we know that shortly before any congress everyone tends to revive his own group and encourages it to become active so as to appear to the congress as though it has many supporters. One of the causes of the increased tension was the rumor that President Chadli would end his duties at the sixth congress and then retire, though I did not say whether or not I would run for office. Some groups began to prepare themselves, but they did not imagine that incidents would go so far. But after the incidents reached that level all those who caused them and were behind them regretted what they had done. There was anger and dissatisfaction, but matters could not have reached that stage if certain organizations had not helped to exacerbate the situation, not imagining that matters would go so far.

[Interviewer] Organizations outside or within the regime?

[Bendjedid] No, within the regime. Those outside the regime have been working for a long time. Frankly they were from within the regime, even from within the FLN.

[Interviewer] Was that the reason for Messaadia's dismissal immediately after the incidents?

[Bendjedid] With regard to Messaadia's dismissal there was a reaction on the part of all the FLN's combatants and citizens, because I tired of warning him. In previous years he managed affairs bureaucratically, trying to develop structures only in the administrative. For instance, the government palace, which comprised several ministries, was allocated to the party general secretariat alone. Then it had branches, structures, and expenses that provided no return. So it became isolated from the grassroots, satisfied with the reports sent by provincial officials. Obviously provincial officials cannot reveal the points of weakness and shortcomings because they are responsible for them in the first place. So the reports do not reflect local conditions. That caused everyone to blame Messaadia. He worked hard and was honest, but he did not maintain the standard that I expected from him, despite my warnings and dissatisfactions. Had he followed my opinion, reduced the size of the bureaucracy, and worked in the field, we could probably have brought the situation under control. One of the reasons for his dismissal is that he stayed for a long period of time. Second, there were reactions against him from all parties: from the combatants, from the masses, from the Army, and from the entire people.

So I told him: Brother, it is better for you to leave and hide your face until the clouds disperse.

[Interviewer] Despite the numerous democratic measures which Algeria has witnessed, which sets Algeria apart from most Third World states and Arab world states, there is still talk about certain individuals abroad who cannot return to Algeria.

[Bendjedid] No one is banned from entering Algeria. They are talking about a general amnesty. I cannot issue a general amnesty, because no verdict was issued. The press—our press—is talking about it, but no verdict has been passed against these people in order for me to issue a general amnesty. A general amnesty for whom?

[Interviewer] But, Your Excellency, you did release Ahmed Ben Bella from prison and now...

[Bendjedid] His problem is not my affair. His problem is a matter for the judiciary, because he committed crimes against Algeria, for which he should be punished.

[Interviewer] But is there any legal action against him?

[Bendjedid] Legal action by the justice department, because a group used violence in Algeria in his movement's name and in his name; but as for the rest, nothing prevents them from entering Algeria.

[Interviewer] Did the previous amnesty include Ayat Ahmed?

[Bendjedid] He can enter. There is no verdict against him and he does not need an amnesty. He can enter now if wants to. He will only have to respect the legal rules. He is free to decide when to return. He says he would return once an amnesty has been issued. An amnesty? What for? There is no verdict against him. The 1984 amnesty included him, and since that time no verdict has been passed against him.

[Interviewer] We understand that there are now no political prisoners in the Algerian prisons, apart from a group of fundamentalists.

[Bendjedid] They are criminals. We made a decision about those who were sentenced. As for those against whom no verdict was issued, I cannot pardon them, because that would mean defying Algerian justice. When the judiciary decides on the matter, then I can act by virtue of the powers assigned to me by law. Then I can decide what position to adopt. But justice must be respected. This applies in all states. Those imprisoned in cases concerning the expression of opinions have been released. Only those who committed crimes are still in detention. If a court has not issued a verdict, I have no right to take any measures, legal or moral.

[Interviewer] Mr President, with regard to the Islamic elements, is it true that the issue granting legal status to an Islamic party in Algeria has stirred up sensitivities with certain neighboring states?

[Bendjedid] That is a matter for Algeria, and every country is free in its actions. But we are an Islamic country and the Constitution is clear about that. But with regard to the Islamic party's activities and work, they are subject to rules. As long as it observes the legal rules in Algeria, we have no right to ban it. We are Muslims and would like to encourage the true Islam, not the Islam of heresies and extremism. If they are not satisfied with the decision, that is their business, but we cannot grant democracy to the Communists and deny it to the trend advocating spiritual affiliation. I cannot ban it, as long as it respects the law, and that is that.

[Interviewer] Mr President, we know that you hold the People's National Army in special regard, but despite this the National Army voluntarily withdrew from political life—a rare case in the Third World. Was it easily persuaded it to do so?

[Bendjedid] Yes, it was. When the Algerian people began to vote freely on the new constitution it was difficult for me not to accept the Armed Forces' request to withdraw from the FLN. The Army is the national army. It is a national army, and an army which engages in politics will engage in conflicts. That was acceptable in the past, since there was only one party. But today there is party pluralism. So if we allow officers to join the Front, I cannot prevent other officers from joining other parties. On what grounds can I prevent it? I will not prevent it. If I prevent them from joining one party, then I must prevent them from joining any party. So the Army's decision was a wise one, and I am in favor of it.

[Interviewer] Am I to understand from that that military personnel are banned from party work?

[Bendjedid] Of course. If they want to engage in politics, they must leave the Army and join the party of their choice. The rule is clear.

[Interviewer] We know the major achievements which Algeria has made in the Arabization field. But despite that—and although there can be no backtracking from Arabization—it is still a burning issue in Algeria, since it prompts discussion and argument.

[Bendjedid] Undisciplined discussion and argument. But before I answer this question I would like to add something about the Army issue. Many claims and allegations are made and spread by some people. With regard to the Army, I believe that no officer in the region is as disciplined as the Algerian officer. I know its officers and we lived together for many years. And whoever says that the Army is against the reforms is a liar. On the contrary, it says that reforms are essential, and it is backing all the reforms. With regard to its engagement in the political field, that is a wise decision, since I encouraged it to do it in the past. When the Constitution was established, this was confirmed. The Army remains the protector of the homeland. It supports constitutional legitimacy, with or without Chadli and whether or not Chadli is in power. Thus we are establishing traditions for the Algerian state. So those who

talk about certain elements within the Army, whose reputation they try to enhance with no tangible basis, are in fact talking about officers who have left the Army and who counted for nothing. The Army has high-ranking officers and no one can affect it. We were accustomed to, and introduced, traditions of discipline in the People's National Army—responsible discipline. The Army's withdrawal from the FLN serves the FLN. The Army remains respected by everyone, free from political conflicts, which are only just beginning. All sides will attack one another. Individuals will probably be attacked by the media. This is why we do not want the Army to be biased toward one side and then be criticized, since it would affect the credibility of the president, whether he is in the Front, another party, or the Army—which is neither normal nor unacceptable, legally or politically.

As for the Arabization aspect, there are actually two blocs: an Arab-oriented nationalist bloc and French-oriented bloc. There are also two other groups, one of which advocates strict narrow-minded Arabization. I am against that. Adherence to Arab and Islamic cultural affiliation is sacrosanct. As for how the Arabic language can be applied in the field, that takes time. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Your Excellency, how do you view Maghreb relations now, and how do you view Algerian-Moroccan relations?

[Bendjedid] They are good, normal relations. I believe this is the result of the efforts that we all, and especially Algeria, have made. This is not an exercise in self-praise but quite frankly we did make great efforts to create the necessary conditions for the resumption of relations. The initiative for the resumption of relations came from us, and so did the initiative for the important project for a gas pipeline through Morocco—a project which benefits Morocco because it continues to Europe. My official visit to Morocco—which allowed us to discuss relations in depth, to clarify our views, and to discuss the future—also took place on our initiative, and the same applies to the Zeralda meeting held to lay the foundations and the basis for building the Arab Maghreb. That too was the result of great efforts by Algeria to clear the Arab atmosphere. Then came the Marrakesh conference, which benefited from Algeria's efforts and which was a success. All this proves Algeria's credibility in its relations with Morocco. We have nothing to hide, but all this has nothing to do with the Western Sahara issue. That is another matter. We agreed to resume relations and to establish mutual cooperation without neglecting the Western Sahara issue viewed on the univerally agreed basis, namely, the UN draft document and particularly the agreement between the two sides on a referendum. Today we expect the [UN] secretary general to make the necessary arrangements for such a referendum. Once a free referendum has been held without any pressure, the Saharan people will have expressed their will and I believe that everyone, including Algeria, will have to respect that will once the Saharan people have made their choice free from any pressure, regardless of whether that choice proves to be in Morocco's interest or in the Saharan people's interest. That is why we have encouraged meetings. One meeting was held, and another was scheduled but did not take place because of certain circumstances. Another meeting is likely to be held in the coming weeks. The purpose of these meetings is to exchange views and make prior mutual pledges before the referendum is held. If the two sides manage to reach an agreement about the future, it will considerably facilitate the referendum because they would know where they stand. If the referendum result is in Morocco's favor, then the other side must abide by that result, and if the result proves to be in the Saharans' favor, then the Saharans will have to make clear the outlook for their relations with and commitments to Morocco. That is, if such a meeting does take place. Such an agreement and such a reassurance—if that is the right word—would facilitate the referendum, which would then be a straightforward process to determine the choice.

I repeat that we are serious about our relations with Morocco. These relations are good and governed by appreciation, respect, and honest work, but the Saharan problem is still pending and we hope that the brothers will help us to help them and thus speed up the settlement of this problem through the United Nations. Once the Saharan issue is resolved, there will be no justification for not proceeding jointly to build the real Arab Maghreb. We will meet at the end of the year or early next year in Tunis.

[Interviewer] There are claims, or rumors, or speculations that there is some coolness in the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] states about that union, and that the UMA has lost the momentum we first noticed after the Zeralda meeting.

[Bendjedid] A distant observer could indeed say so. Perhaps we made numerous mistakes and were overenthusiastic in our meetings at government level, not to say leadership level. I favored a meeting at least once every 6 months, because at the outset the meetings were held once a year. I told them that it would be better at that stage to hold more meetings at king and presidents level because that would enable us to get to know one another better and to eliminate some of the things that were still there, and that once everything had been set properly in motion we would meet once a year. So, at the beginning there were intensive meetings, but when matters took a normal course there appeared to be some coolness. The truth is that there is no coolness and no differences worth mentioning to cause such coolness. Algerian-Moroccan relations are proceeding normally and nothing has changed; so are Algerian-Tunisian relations, but perhaps at a much slower tempo than in the initial years, because at the outset every week there would be an Algerian minister visiting Tunis or a Tunisian minister visiting Algiers. The same applies with regard to Libya. So matters are proceeding normally now. To a distant observer there could appear to be some coolness. At least as far as Algeria is concerned, I say that

there is nothing to make us reduce or minimize our activity on the UMA's behalf. I tell you frankly that many people have cast doubts on it from the very outset. Even some Algerian officials thought that we were wasting our time and that the time was not yet ripe for building an Arab Maghreb union; but despite that the steps we have taken are not bad and we have reached the point of a true sense of responsibility and commitment to one another in various fields. We have started working quietly and responsibly on planning all that we intend to do in the future. I really do not discern any sensitivities between Algeria and Tunisia.... I have heard a lot of talk, but that is normal. I have met with President Zine El Abidine in Libya and Belgrade and we agreed to revive regular work aimed at building the Arab Maghreb.

[Interviewer] What about the plan for a union between Libya and Algeria that you mentioned?

[Bendjedid] We did mention that at one time, but now the situation has changed as far as Algeria is concerned. Today the matter does not concern the FLN alone, because the FLN is only one of several trends and parties in the arena. The others must also express their views, but we have agreed that the FLN will be the driving force in Algeria in relation to other parties, groups, and organizations and the study of this matter. When we reach a decision and the various parties agree we will be able to raise the issue in the form of an objective and reasonable plan for Algerian-Libyan work. However, all this is being examined by the FLN and Libya, but no commitments have yet been made. We in the FLN and Algeria are obliged to seek the opinion of all existing official parties. Perhaps meetings could be held and studies made on this matter. We are making progress in relations with Libya and others. So we have not abandoned the idea, but are not applying the old formula and old method, because in the past there was only the FLN. Now the situation is different and we must take that into consideration in expressing the will of all the Algerian people.

In other words, neither the FLN nor any other party nor the president of the Republic can impose a union with Libya on the Algerian people on its own. It must be accepted by the Algerian people, perhaps through a free general referendum. If the Algerian people say "yes," then fine; if they say "no," then that is their sovereign right.

[Interviewer] Mr President, there has been some tension in relations between a certain Arab Maghreb state and another state but there has been no positive stand from the [Maghreb] states in favor of that state, namely, Mauritania.

[Bendjedid] Actually it becomes a difficult problem when the matter concerns an Arab Maghreb state and a neighboring country, or a friend and a brother—a friend by many accounts, and a brother. It would be neither in the general interest of the Arab states nor in the interest of the Maghreb states in particular if we were to act hastily and take a stand that would, at the political level, cause complications and create many difficulties for us with the African Continent. The problem is actually under consideration now. We are concerned about the situation but have asked the current chairman (that is, Morocco) to make efforts between the two countries, but there are some sensitivities among the Mauritanian brothers and reproach for Morocco for agreeing to represent Senegalese interests in Mauritania. This has created complications, but the OAU has formed an African committee to follow up the issue between Senegal and Mauritania. Tunisia is a member of that committee. When I met with the brothers in Libya I suggested that we members of the UMA throw our weight behind Tunisia as a boost to Tunisia's position in that committee so that it would act with the UMA's full support UMA to try to convince both sides and find out how we could help them resolve that problem. However, I do not believe that a public stand or support for Mauritania against Senegal would benefit either Mauritania or Senegal particularly since, from an Arab viewpoint, some people are trying to drive a wedge between the Arabs and the Africans. If we were to make such a mistake, it would increase and we would be giving all Africans a justification for siding with Mobutu and Israel.

[Interviewer] But Mobutu has shown sympathy for Mauritania.

[Bendjedid] Perhaps he did so for selfish reasons and considerations, not out of sympathy for Mauritania. Do not forget that Senegal has problems with Zambia and has cancelled its union with it. It also has problems with Guinea-Bissau and perhaps problems with another neighboring country. I do not know. Coolness and sensitivies exist even in Senegal's relations with Mali. Moussa Traore complained to me and said: "I have had facilities from Maaouiya and difficulties from Abdou Diouf."

[Interviewer] Indeed, Mr President, I would testify that the Senegalese have been unfair.

[Bendjedid] I really do not know whether the Senegalese did it as an excuse or justification for raising the border issue. The Mauritanians now say that we are ready to make all kinds of concessions, with the exception of interference in internal affairs in the name of Arab or black minorities and with the exception of the borders: That we would not allow. That is one of the principles in the OAU document. In other words, it is wrong to raise the border issue at present.

[Interviewer] How do you view relations between the Maghreb in general and Europe in general?

[Bendjedid] Dialogue between the two groups is really a necessity. I have stressed this on many occasions, including at many meetings with EC officials, especially during Francois Mitterrand's recent visit. I said to him that it was necessary and essential to initiate a responsible dialogue between the EC and the Maghreb group,

which would be in the interest of both communities in economic, security, political, and all other fields, particularly since our overall economic transactions are 80 percent with the EC and 20 or perhaps 25 percent with the rest of the world. There are also historical factors which we cannot ignore. Furthermore, on the question of security, I also told them that their security concerns us of the North African Maghreb, just as our security concerns them. World War II proved that. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Mr President, over the past 10 years Algeria has proved that it is a country of moderation, mediation, and political and humanitarian roles, particularly when it comes to the question of kidnapping. However, the public knows when terrorists arrive in Algeria but not when they leave it.

[Bendjedid] I can assure you that there are no terrorists in Algeria. The main condition is departure from Algeria. That is what has maintained Algeria's credibility, but to shut the door on them or to hand them over would mean entering a whirlpool and that if any problems occur they would be difficult to resolve. However, we neither share nor accept this method of action by any party, whether an an organization or a state. We reject this method except in relation to just liberation causes, such as the Palestinian cause. That is open and clear. We reject everything else and we do not allow groups to commit crimes and then come and hide in Arab countries, thus damaging the reputation of those countries and the Arabs as a whole. Algeria does not seek mediation roles in such cases, but when it is persistently and urgently asked to do so by the parties concerned, whether minor or major states, we do undertake the task for purely humanitarian reasons.

[Interviewer] Mr President, let us now move to foreign policy. The tripartite committee is a vast topic. How did it start? Where has it stumbled? And how did it resume its work in pursuit of success?

[Bendjedid] The question was raised at the Casablanca summit conference and, honest to God, one of the people who raised it was the Syrian president. We must mention this because there was some embarrassment. We, as Syrian friends, were embarrassed and so were others, but I swear to God that President Hafiz al-Asad made things easier. He faced us first. He met with conference chairman King Hassan II and told him that he was in favor of the formation of a subcommittee. The custodian of the two holy mosques visited me on the same day and we discussed the issue and said that we should think with King Hassan II of a solution that would at least keep Arab ranks united and prevent an explosion at the summit because of high tension. The custodian of the two holy mosques and I were in agreement, and we both went to the conference headquarters to submit our views. When we got there we found King Hassan II with President Hafiz al-Asad. They told us: We were plotting against you. So I said: On the contrary, we were plotting against you. (laughter) President al-Asad told us what he proposed. Well, even the selection of the committee was done with Syria's approval. Personally, I was reluctant to participate because of certain circumstances, but after some insistence I agreed on the basis that we would shoulder responsibility, but when any party disturbs the atmosphere I would be unable to deny its or any other party's responsibility for so doinng. Of course, during the conference, King Hassan, in his capacity as host and chairman, submitted the agreement reached between us. I do not want to go into details, but he said: I will propose a formula and I am confident that you will accept it. Meet with me this afternoon, and I will let you have the final draft.

Everyone agreed. In fact I would go as far as to say that the draft perhaps contained some details that partly restricted the committee's freedom of movement and maneuver, so several kings and presidents said that there was no need for it and that we should give the committee our confidence and let it do its work without imposing any restrictive conditions on it. We parted on that basis. At a later meeting we assessed the situation in light of the report of the six-member committee headed by Kuwait and other information in our possession and drew up a program. What complicated the first stage was perhaps the call for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces as a necessity. I asked: 1. the Syrian forces' departure is a necessity, would their departure take place before we resolve the political problem? It is a possibility, but who would replace the Syrians? Is there a Lebanese force capable of protecting the Lebanese and Lebanon, a force acceptable to everyone? No. Well, if that is the case, why prejudge the issue? Let us settle the political issues and leave the issue of the Syrian presence to the end.

However, some Arab states insisted, so we included withdrawal of the Syrian forces as a condition. That of course was unacceptable to the Syrians and to various Lebanese forces including the nationalist forces. Even some Christian circles said: We are for the Syrian forces' wothdrawal, but not at this stage, because such a withdrawal could create a disturbance in the situation.

However, the formula remained the same and Syria and the various Lebanese forces rejected it. After that we stopped. Then on Arab and international insistence that the tripartite committee resume its mission, and after some contemplation, I contacted the custodian of the two holy mosques and King Hassan II and said: We cannot remain silent. We must answer the Arab and foreign states with an assessment of the situation. I suggest that the foreign ministers meet in one of the capitals to make such an assessment and if they see any positive factors emerging in relation to the previous difficulties, which would allow us to resume our work, then we will do so; otherwise we will answer those who have asked us to resume the mission and we tell that them God stands above all things and that there will be no change of position.

We agreed to do that. However, before the foreign ministers meeting I met with Syrian President Hafiz

al-Asad in Libya. We met privately, and the remonstrations between us began, but then I said: The time for remonstrations is over. Let us look to the future. Does Syria want the tripartite committee to resume its work? He said "yes." So I suggested a certain formula to him. I said that instead of making the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon a precondition, we would say that such a withdrawal must be implemented through the formation of a Lebanese government of accord and the election of a president and that that government would then hold negotiations with the Syrian Government on the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon.

President al-Asad said: I am willing, and I agree. I told him that that was my opinion and Algeria's. Let me discuss it with the other brothers, I added.

I discussed the matter with His Majesty King Hassan II who was in Libya at the time. I informed him of the agreement reached with President al-Asad. He said: I agree with you, and all that remains for us to do is to inform the custodian of the two holy mosques. When we did so, he immediately agreed and expressed a willingness to act instantly.

We therefore agreed that the foreign ministers would meet and submit to us a formula based on the principles agreed on by President Hafiz al-Asad and myself and confirmed after President al-Asad's meeting with King Hassan in Libya. President al-Asad repeated the same thing to me, saying that he had talked with the king and that the latter approved of the formula.

It was on that basis that the foreign ministers met in Belgrade. Before that I met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and briefed him on the agreement reached with President Hafiz al-Asad. I also told him: I want to tell you what happened in detail so that the custodian of the two holy mosques will have an accurate picture. An assessment was made and we three states agreed to issue a statement in Belgrade in the name of the three ministers saying that the committee would resume its work and that the foreign ministers would meet in Jeddah to assess the situation. That assessment was made and agreement was reached on a certain program to which some points were added after consultation and contacts between the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Syrian president. We added the issue of the Syrian forces' withdrawal and agreed on a 2-3 year timeframe. First, it was 3 years, then we said: Let it be 2 years. In other words, after the formation of a Lebanese government, that government would come to some agreement with Syria, and a time limit would be set after which the Syrian forces must leave Lebanon. Syria is committed to that decision and President Hafiz al-Asad has made the following pledge: once constitutional reforms have been made, a president has been elected, and a government formed, there will be no justification for our remaining in Lebanon.

He also said: Algeria or the tripartite committee can make a commitment on Syria's behalf that once these institutions are established and the political problem has been resolved we will come to some agreement with the Lebanese Government, and if we then refused to leave, then you would have every right to support the Lebanese Government and exert pressure on Syria to leave Lebanon. I pledge to you that once these problems have been resolved I will be ready to leave, in agreement with the government.

That is approximately what happened. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] How do you view the latest Egyptian move in connection with the Palestinian question?

[Bendjedid] Actually we cannot be more Palestinian than the Palestinians—and I am not saying Egyptians. If something is acceptable to the Palestinians, then that is their own affair because it is they who are paying the price and suffering every form of torture, starvation, destruction, and humiliation. In the past we in fact went rather too far in our trusteeship over the Palestinian brothers. If we had let them shoulder their responsibilities I do not think we would have reached this point. So I say that whatever is acceptable to the Palestinians we would be willing to help them achieve it: no more, no less. We cannot ask them to carry too heavy a burden. When it comes to any initiative, they know their affairs best. If an initiative leads to the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's aspiration to a Palestinian state based on self-determination, then that would be fine. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Your Excellency, the sinful explosions which occurred in the holy places infuriated Muslims everywhere. What is Algeria's view of the resolute measures taken by the [Saudi] Kingdom to protect the holy places?

[Bendjedid] Like the rest of the Arab nation, Algeria was deeply shaken by the incidents that rocked the holy places. The aim of such acts is to harm Islamic ideals and empty them of their deep values of piety, goodness, and tolerance.

The presence of millions of Muslims in the same place at the same time is an opportunity to get closer to God and an apportunity for rapprochement, harmony, and solidarity in the interest of the Islamic nation's prosperity and of preserving the holy nature of these areas. We support all measures necessary to ensure the protection of the holy places and the security and safety of the pilgrims.

[Interviewer] Mr President, how do you view relations between your country and Saudi Arabia?

[Bendjedid] It is not a matter of opinion. Our relations have been good and continuous for a long time. Sometimes perhaps minor differences occur, but that is normal—as, for example, in the case of the differences over oil and oil prices in past years. However, there is full coordination in all fields, not only on oil but also on Arab political issues. We consult and exchange views. It

is a positive sign that whenever we two countries hold talks we find ourselves in agreement on methods, targets, and ways of tackling problems.

Our relations are good and, quite frankly, this is entirely thanks to personal relations with the custodian of the two holy mosques. These close and strong relations have had a very positive effect on bilateral relations.

President Receives Soviet Parliamentary Delegation

LD0710224989 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Text] We begin our bulletin with the presidential activities and the meeting President Chadli Bendjedid has had with the Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Gainbnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the [USSR] Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Supreme Soviet [Presidium] of the Socialist Republic of Tajikistan, who delivered to the head of state a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The meeting, which was attended by Mr Rabih Bitat, speaker of the National People's Assembly, dealt with the current reforms in Algeria and the Soviet Union and also with reinforcing bilateral relations.

The Soviet special envoy, before leaving the Presidency, summed up his talks with the president of the Republic as we will listen to him in the voice of colleague Yazid Attut:

[Attut] I would like to say first of all that the meeting has taken place in an atmosphere of friendship. We have delivered to President Chadli Bendjedid a personal cable from USSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. We have dealt with bilateral relations existing between Algeria and the Soviet Union and the means of strengthening cooperation between our two countries. We told President Chadli Bendjedid everything being said about perestroyka in our country and the transformations being experienced by Soviet society. For his part, the president informed us about the democratic course and the political reforms taking place in Algeria.

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Message to Bendjedid

JN1010160889 Baghad INA in English 1530 GMT 10 Oct 89

Algiers, Oct 10, INA—President Saddam Husayn's envoy to the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Mr Arshad al-Zibari, minister of state, delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to President Bendjedid at a meeting here today with the Algerian President.

The Iraqi ambassador to Algeria was present at the audience.

Earlier Mr al-Zibari had delivered President Husayn's messages to the Libyan, Tunisian, and Palestinian leaders.

Tunisian, Libyan State Secretaries Arrive

LD0910195389 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] The Tunisian and Libyan secretaries of state responsible for Maghreb affairs have arrived in Algiers to take part in the work of the follow-up committee of the Arab Maghreb Union, the AMU. The work began this afternoon at the Al-Mithaq residence. They were welcomed at Houari Boumedienne Airport by Mr Abdelaziz Khellef, Algerian secretary of state for Maghreb affairs.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Sends 'Urgent Message' to 'Arafat

NC1110163889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—After meeting with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today, PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal stated that Dr 'Abd-al-Majid had briefed him on the latest developments in the peace process and on the outcome of contacts recently held by the Egyptian Government. He noted that the meeting formed part of the continuous consultations between Egypt and the PLO.

Kamal added that Dr 'Abd-al-Majid had entrusted him with an urgent message for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Palestinian Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi on developments in light of recent Egyptian consultations.

Kamal noted that a Palestinian delegation including Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Hakam Bal'awi will arrive in Cairo tomorrow for further consultations with Egyptian officials. He stressed that the PLO rejects any division of Palestinian representation, explaining that any Palestinian delegation which is to take part in negotiations must represent the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories.

It is worth noting that Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office of Political Affairs, was present for part of that meeting.

Baker Proposes Tripartite Meeting in Washington

NC1010200289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1623 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that the American proposal to hold a tripartite meeting in Washington among the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel is one of the ideas suggested by U.S Secretary of State James Baker in his recent message to the Egyptian Government.

The agency has learned that the Egyptian point of view on this contends that such a meeting should not be a goal in itself and that it should produce positive results which would give momentum to peace efforts. This, according to the Egyptian view, requires agreement on these results in advance so that the meeting will not be just a meeting.

In the meantime, the Foreign Ministry's working team is still studying Baker's message in light of recent developments in the area.

The agency has also learned that Egypt is still contacting the Palestinians in its effort to give an impetus to the peace process.

James Baker had suggested that he meet in Washington with the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers within 2 weeks to discuss ways to give momentum to the peace process and the elections in the occupied Arab territories. In a television interview, Baker affirmed that Washington is trying to bridge the gap between the Egyptian and Israeli stands through changing the formula of the elections. He added that the new formula aims to clarify certain points and that it will not be taken as an alternative to President Mubarak's 10 points.

PLO Official on Proposal

NC1110225289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, 11 Oct (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), member of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that at a recent meeting the Palestinian leaders defined their position regarding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting. Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point memorandum, he said that the PLO's position consists of the following five points:

1. The PLO is the only party that has the right to form and announce the Palestinian delegation, and it is its spokesman.
2. The agenda should be open and without prior conditions.
3. The Palestinian side adheres to the Palestinian peace initiative, which is based on international legitimacy, and the right to discuss it.
4. The meeting would be considered a preliminary dialogue between the two sides and a step on the way to holding an international peace conference as a framework for final negotiations on a comprehensive settlement.
5. The proposed meeting must be attended by representatives of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, Egypt, and Sweden.

In a statement published by the Palestinian news agency WAFA this evening, Abu-Mazin said: We regard any proposals or ideas which are raised by this or that party and which do not refer to these bases as unacceptable to the Palestinian people and to the PLO, the leader of the national struggle.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi To Meet in Egypt Soon

NC1110225789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2222 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that preparations are currently being made for the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi next week in Matruh, on the northern Egyptian coast.

The paper adds that the Libyan leader will spend 24 hours in Matruh during which he will hold more than one round of talks with President Mubarak.

Soviet Envoy on Mubarak's Upcoming Moscow Visit

NC0910184089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, held a 90-minute meeting today with Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev.

Following the meeting, the Soviet ambassdor stated that he and Dr al-Baz discussed arrangements for President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union. He noted that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had renewed Gorbachev's invitation to President Mubarak during their recent meeting in New York.

Zhuravlev added that he and Dr al-Baz had also discussed ways to bolster and develop Egyptian-Soviet relations in various fields, adding that the Egyptian-Soviet joint committee will meet next summer.

Commenting on Israel's rejection of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, the ambassador reiterated that his country fully supports such a dialogue and that it backs all efforts to propel the peace process forward.

The Soviet ambassador remarked that the Israeli rejection of efforts to reach a real settlement of the Middle East problem is the major obstacle to establishing peace in the region. He noted that all the countries of the world, except for Israel, agree on the importance of achieving peace.

Touching on the reestablishment of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, the ambassador pointed out that the reasons which had caused an interruption in these relations still exist. He added that the Soviet Union believes that the resumption of relations with Israel will depend on a positive Israeli stand which propels the peace process forward and results in an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Message to Mubarak; Leaves

NC0910094289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir, Iraqi justice minister and personal envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, left Cairo for Sanaa this morning after a 1-day visit. During his visit he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from President Saddam Husayn.

He was seen off at the airport by Justice Minister Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr and Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo Nabil Najm.

It should be recalled that the Iraqi envoy delivered a similar message to King Husayn in Amman. He will give another message to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic.

Economy Minister Receives SFRY Counterpart

NC1010204189 Cairo MENA in English 2014 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 10—MENA—Economy and foreign trade minister Dr Yusri Mustafa received tonight Yugoslav minister of economy and foreign trade, Franc Horvat [name, title as received], and discussed with him aspects of stepping up bilateral economic and trade relations.

The two ministers also agreed on some proposals to develop trade exchange between Egypt and Yugoslavia.

Results of Talks With IMF, World Bank Noted

JN0910122089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Oct 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] An informed political source has affirmed that the Egyptian delegation under Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, to the recent talks with IMF and World Bank representatives, agreed during these talks to raise rates of energy, especially gasoline and electricity, up to the level of world rates within 5 years. The Egyptian delegation also agreed to reduce public sector investments, suspend the state policy of employing graduates, redistribute manpower among the various government organs and services, and activate the private sector role. The government also agreed to confine subsidies to sugar, rice, cooking oil, and rice only, and to float the prices of the public sector companies' products.

The source added that differences with the Egyptian Government were confined to the IMF's insistence on unifying the rate of 110 piasters [per dollar] followed by the Central Council foreign currency pool—according to which basic foodstuffs are imported—with the free exchange market rates. The government proposed that this process take place gradually. The source explained that Egypt has completely suspended payment of due debt installments and interests as of 1 July 1989, pending the results of the next round of talks with the IMF next month. The source indicated that during the next round of talks, the government will seek to reach a new agreement with the IMF that would enable it to go to the Paris Club and declare the Egyptian economy's inability to meet its obligations and to call on creditor countries to reschedule Egypt's due debts between July 1988 the end of June 1990, which are estimated at $10 billion. The source affirmed that if Egypt goes to the Paris Club, it will propose an economic reform plan to the creditor countries and placing the state budget's revenues and expenses under the supervision of the IMF and the World Bank. The source indicated that the overall loans and credit facilities sought by Egypt over the fiscal year 1989-90 amount to $8 billion.

Editorial on Likud Rejection of Talks With PLO

JN1010212489 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Adding Insult to Injury"]

[Text] David Levi, housing minister in Shamir's government and member of the Likud bloc, which is led by the prime minister, has said that the reason for the Likud ministers' rejection of the proposal to hold Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo is that the acceptance of this proposal means recognizing the PLO.

This justification is the silliest excuse for escaping from the impasse Shamir and his comrades are facing now that officials throughout the world are calling for these talks.

Do the Likud bloc members believe that their refusal to recognize the PLO will lead to eliminating the PLO, and consequently to liquidating the cause of the Palestinian people, who have authorized the PLO to work to achieve their legitimate rights and to restore their occupied territories, freedom, and self-determination?

We are not exaggerating when we say that the PLO is one of the organizations in contemporary history that has gained the support of almost all states in the world. It is now represented on various diplomatic levels. This is in addition to the fact that tens of states have officially recognized the proclaimed Palestinian state. Moreover, Yasir 'Arafat, who is the president of this state, is received in several major countries as a head of state. The PLO has also gained the unprecedented support of the 109 nonaligned states, the 50 member states of the Organization of African Unity, and the 44 member states of the Islamic Conference Organization, in addition to its recognized status as an observer in the United Nations.

Perhaps, the participation of 132 states in the UN General Assembly meeting in Geneva last year to listen to 'Arafat is the strongest proof of the international community's semiunanimous support for the PLO. So,

after all this, do Shamir and his aides still believe that their refusal to recognize the PLO will wipe it from the face of the earth? If the Likud bloc members cannot see the sun at noon, then the defect is not in the sun, but in the eyes of those people and their dark glasses!

Editorial on Shamir's Attempts To 'Evade' Peace

JN1110112889 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Shamir's Maneuvers No Longer Deceive Anyone"]

[Text] Many international quarters, including the United States, have welcomed the 10 points that President Husni Mubarak has put to Israel to clarify certain aspects of what has become known as Shamir's initiative on Palestinian elections in the occupied territories. All these quarters viewed the Egyptian stand as a serious endeavor to pave the way for these elections, given that they are a step toward the initiation of talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides whose ultimate objective is to settle the conflict between them, restore peace, and terminate tension, wars, and the disturbances which prevailed on the Middle East region for a long time.

Although many Israeli politicians and a large part of the Israeli public opinion have called for accepting the Egyptian stand, which seeks to remove the obstacles hindering the peace process, and approximate viewpoints among the various parties, Shamir and his partners in the Likud bloc continued to abide by their intransigent stand rejecting any mediation that seeks to push ahead the peace process which was put into motion in the wake of the very important developments in the Palestinians' stand, developments which affirmed to the world at large that they have a sincere desire to coexist in peace with their neighbors, particularly with Israel.

Shamir's stand could be understood as it contains nothing new. It is the perpetuation of the policy of foiling any effort or initiative to establish peace. What is really surprising, however, is that the head of the Israeli Government sought the assistance of Washington to have it intervene and help him in holding talks with Cairo on the formation of the Palestinian delegation that will participate in any peace talks. This is because Egypt has explicitly stated its stand when it reaffirmed more than once that its 10 points are neither an initiative, nor proposals but only a means to unambiguously clarify the Israeli stand on the issue of elections that the Shamir Government had proposed. Cairo has also reaffirmed more than once that the question of the formation of the Palestinian delegation is the prerogative of the Palestinian side alone.

The White House announced that the Egyptian peace plan is realistic while the U.S. State Department had described the Shamir government's refusal to hold talks with the Palestinians in Cairo as a party maneuver. This indicates that Shamir's maneuvers to evade all that seeks to establish peace are now exposed to all, and will be to no avail.

Papers Criticize Yitzhaq Shamir's Position

NC1210084689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian papers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR stress that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's stand on proposals to resolve the Middle East crisis amounts to encroachment upon the rights of others and reveals intention to conspire against and assassinate the peace efforts.

In their Thursday editorials, the two papers say that Shamir, who began to throw thorns on any endeavor to hold direct negotiations with the Palestinian people's representatives, will eventually strengthen the prospects of confrontation and war.

The papers note that the Palestinians are not demanding more than fair treatment and the right to choose their representatives at the expected peace talks.

AL-AHRAM criticized the stand of Shamir and his government, which refuses any proposal to resolve the Middle East problem that does not provide the best option for the Israeli Government. It adds that there are ulterior motives behind all of Shamir's claims in this respect because these claims focus on what is best for Israel.

The paper says this logic is an encroachment upon the rights of others for it robs the other party of his right to submit proposals or to select the best option for him. Besides, the paper adds, this logic precludes any opportunity for any better initiative.

The paper points out that, despite its glossy facade, the Israeli logic in this manner reveals a hidden conspiracy and intention to assassinate the peace efforts. [passage omitted]

An AL-AKHBAR editorial entitled "In Order for All Matters To Be Quite Clear" says Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has begun to put thorns on the road to any effort to hold direct negotiations with the Palestinian people's representatives, who have been recognized both locally and internationally. The paper adds that Shamir is doing so through proposals on holding [word indistinct] elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip that he already knows will not be accepted by anyone. It notes that Shamir also rejects any form of impartial international supervision of the elections he is proposing. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the paper asserts that the Palestinians are not demanding more than a fair treatment and the right to choose their representatives at the talks, which the whole world hopes will eliminate completely a chronic hotbed of tension in a sensitive region such as the Middle East.

Editorial on Israel's Plan To Absorb Immigrants

JN1110115489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Loans Maneuver"]

[Text] Israel's usual policy is to raise problems that have nothing to do with the essence of an issue of interest to the international community during a given period. Regarding the Middle East, the Israeli officials demanded, during their recent visit to Washington, U.S. credit guarantees amounting to approximately $400 million to finance the absorption of 100,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants, who are expected to arrive in Israel during the next few years.

Shim'on Peres, minister of finance and leader of the Labor Party, made these demands during his visit to Washington before the "beehive" meetings, which the U.S. capital witnessed on the occasion of President Mubarak's visit and the consultations held with officials from the Middle East on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York.

The U.S. Government rejected the demand, as announced, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said that the United States opposes the advent of any new immigrants to settle in the West Bank and that "restrictions on the U.S. budget" make it difficult to provide such an amount for Israel.

It is noteworthy that the latter excuse is completely new because Israel's financial demands have never been that difficult for the United States. However, the first excuse deserves more attention because it is part of the clear-cut political line which has been adopted since last February, when President Bush announced after his meeting with President Mubarak, that his government adheres to several principles, including the suspension of establishing new settlements in the occupied territories.

As this is the case, it is illogical for Israel to demand U.S. credit guarantees, knowing well the U.S. principle of objection to settlement. It seems that the purpose of the demand is to embarrass Washington and get it to reject it, especially since the demand itself is extraordinary and unusual. Israel is talking about the absorption of 100,000 Soviet immigrants during the coming few years as if it wants to exasperate the United States.

It is noteworthy that Israel has created this scenario while all efforts were exerted to give momentum to the Palestine question through an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in accordance with new Egyptian efforts approved by the Palestinians and the international community. We have every reason to believe that the purpose of this scenario is not only to create chaos around the core of the problem, but also to get the United States to reject [the demand] so that Israel can reject any U.S. proposal or pressure regarding the Palestine question.

Somali Students Occupying Consulate Arrested

NC1010195589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Today some Somali students occupied their country's consulate in Cairo. Egyptian police used tear gas to get them out, arrested 15 students, and will interrogate them.

Libya

Envoys Summoned Over NATO Naval Exercises

LD1110185989 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation today summoned the ambassadors of the Mediterranean countries accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah—among whom were also ambassadors of NATO-member countries because of the large-scale naval exercises which are currently being carried out by NATO in the western Mediterranean. The People's Bureau informed them of the Great Jamahiriyah's stance toward such exercises, and the dangers which are entailed in such a huge military concentration in a sea of a limited space and which constitute, furthermore, a threat to the region as well as a challenge to its people's will. Also this demonstrates high-handedness, given the fact that there are superpowers from outside the region taking part in these exercises which makes the Mediterranean a region of continuous tension and conflict.

The ambassadors were informed, moreover, that such a concentration of naval units will be harmful to the region's countries, to the environment, and to navigation in the Mediterranean, which we are trying to transform into a lake of peace, security, and stability for all peoples.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has asked the brother delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations to inform both the chairman of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general of the Great Jamahiriyah's views on such exercises and their effects on regional countries and peoples, as well as on international peace and security.

Panamanian Labor Minister, Delegation Arrive

LD1110102389 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Panama's Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Jorge Fisher and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He made a statement to JANA in which he said the Panamanian people highly appreciate the great international 1 September revolution and its leader. He denounced the wanton U.S.-NATO aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah, stressing that Panama is now facing similar aggression. For the same reasons U.S.

imperialism is trying to draw Panama under its subjugation and hegemony, which the Panamanian people reject.

Colonel Jabir Concludes Uganda Visit

LD1110133989 Tripoli JANA in English 0820 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEW AGENCY—Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir [Armed Forces commander in chief] and his accompanying delegation have concluded their visit to Uganda after joining in the festivities of the Uganda people marking the 27th anniversary of the independence of Uganda.

Morocco

Paper Criticizes Algerian Media on Sahara Issue

LD1110154689 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 11 (MAP)—The hope we had as to the return to reason of (Polisario) [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] assailants and those backing them turns out to be an illusion, stated Moroccan daily in Arabic "AL ALAM" in a story on the attack Saturday against a position to the south of Guelta Zammour in the Moroccan Sahara.

Pointing out that the commitment for a cease-fire cannot be made by people who are not attached to any moral value, the daily of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist, opposition) stated that Morocco had hopes that the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) would open the way to more understanding and that the country where from the attacks were launched would give up quarrels to devote energies to the edification of the Arab Maghreb. Morocco also had hopes that Algeria and Mauritania would get inspired from the settlement of the Namibian problem to prevent the infiltration of assailants and weapons from their territories at a moment the UN secretary general is taking measures for the organization of the referendum decided by the United Nations.

The edification of the Arab Maghreb is inspired from moral principles, but it seems that we are living at an era when communities are established including two countries which favor that aggressions be launched against one of them, the daily wrote.

The situation has not changed since 1975, the daily stated. The fact that Morocco has accepted the referendum, and despite the audience granted by King Hassan II to Polisario members, in their quality as Moroccans, Algeria is using the same language it used with us, that of two peoples and two states and the Algerian media speaks in a still more indecent way when it affirms for instance that "Morocco is not ripe enough to realize peace" or that "Morocco only understands the language of war."

For the daily, the preservation of the Kingdom's territorial integrity imposes a decisive battle that Morocco must wage without being diverted by pledges, by an eventual referendum or by the edification of the Maghreb.

Further on Criticism

LD1110153789 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 11 (MAP)—"The new aggression perpetrated by the separatists against a position to the south of Guelta Zammour in the recovered Sahara and the elements included in the communique of the Ministry of Information as to the nature of weapons and ammunitions used during the aggression and the number of killed, injured, and imprisoned persons made the Moroccan people realize that it was a large-scale aggression and that the battle was violent," wrote Tuesday the Moroccan daily AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI.

In an editorial entitled "The People and the New Aggression," the daily of the "Socialist Union of Popular Forces" (USFP-opposition), pointed out that this aggression makes one draw several conclusions: Such a large-scale aggression requires a several month preparation, a fact proving that the aggression was well studied and was part of a plan with faraway aims and goals.

The nature of the aggression and the means used are such that the attack could not have been unnoticed by neighbouring countries. It is true that the aggression was launched from Mauritanian territory, but this is not enough to affirm that the Algerian forces stationed in Tindouf and which have detection and control means had not detected the separatists' movements and did not know that an aggression was about to be perpetrated against Morocco.

The fact that the aggression was launched from Mauritanian territory raises the following question: If Mauritania is unable to prevent that the aggression be perpetrated from its territory, did it fulfill its duty by informing Morocco which is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and to which it is bound by UMA conventions and commitments? The same question goes for Algeria which should have at least informed Morocco about the imminent attack, the daily stated.

For the daily, since none of these Maghreban [as received] countries informed Morocco about the attack, it becomes clear that forces in one country or other do not agree with the improvements taking place in the Maghreb and the normalization of relations between Maghreban countries and seek to make the Sahara issue a continuous source of tension in the region to the detriment of Maghreban political, economic, and cultural cooperation.

The aggression is merely aimed at foiling the mission of the UN secretary general and at delaying the implementation of his peace plan that was endorsed by Morocco,

the daily stated before wondering whether the attack was not connected to the struggle for power, to the divergences about ongoing changes, in which case, the aggression would have internal and external goals.

Under any circumstances, the daily concluded, the Moroccan people is aware that keeping vigilant is necessary.

Sudan

RCC Spokesman Denies Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Tortured

EA1110203589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, chairman of the Information Committee and official spokesman of the Council, has denied AFP reports quoting Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi that Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had been tortured in Kawbar prison and moved out of the prison. Col Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, in a statement to SUNA, stressed that Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is in Kawbar prison, has not undergone any form of torture, and has not been transferred to any place outside Khartoum. He said anyone wishing to meet al-Sadiq al-Mahdi would be allowed to visit him in prison to confirm the inaccuracy of those reports. He added that his family was allowed to visit him. Col Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman said these statements were exaggerated, motivated, and aimed against the revolution. He emphasized that it was not in character for the revolution to treat detainees poorly.

Al-Sadiq Allegedly Disappears

AB1110212589 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] What has become of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi? There has been no news about the former Sudanese prime minister for 3 days. There have been rumors of a possible assassination. In a communique published today by the British press, Mubarak al-Mahdi, a cousin of the former Sudanese prime minister, said that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was taken to the Kawbar prison, not far from Khartoum, from where he was later sent to an unknown destination. Since then, there has been no news about him.

According to the chronological order of the facts, on 5 October, that is, 5 days ago, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was sent to an unknown destination and made to appear before several officers for interrogation. After that, the communique continued, the soldiers allegedly promised to execute him for inciting the Sudanese masses to revolt against the ruling military junta in Khartoum. There is now uncertainty about the former Sudanese prime minister's fate. Have the Sudanese authorities carried out a mock execution, or a real one? That is the question.

Al-Bashir Denies RCC-Islamic Front Ties

LD1110152989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1222 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] London, Oct 11 (KUNA)—Head of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] General 'Umar al-Bashir reiterated his denial of the existence of any relations between members of his council and the Islamic Front.

Interviewed in Khartoum by chief editor of the London-based Middle East newspaper OUAN AMAIR [name as received] Al-Bashir said such accusations of a relation between the two sides are mere rumours circulated by some circles against the government.

He also noted that he will deal with any Sudanese national no matter what party he was loyal to before the last June 30 coup.

He also denied any differences among members of the Revolutionary council, noting that those members were chosen carefully but he did not deny that some of the ministers could be loyal to the Islamic Front.

The Sudanese leader also denied any differences between him and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

SPLA's Garang Meets Botswana's Masire

EA1110101089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] leader Dr John Garang de Mabior on 5 October 1989 had a 2-hour meeting with the Botswana president, Dr Quett Masire, in the palace in Gaborone. In his welcoming speech to the SPLM/SPLA leader and accompanying delegation, President Masire expressed hapiness in having Dr John in his country to brief him and the people of Botswana about the situation in Sudan.

The SPLM/SPLA leader then thanked President Masire and his vice president for the warm reception accorded to him and his delegation, despite much work of preparing for parliamentary elections, he held on Saturday, 7 October 1989. He then went on to explain the purpose of his visit to southern African countries of which, he said was to seek diplomatic and political support for the movement's peace process. He observed that the situation in Sudan is a major OAU issue, and it is necessary for African leaders to be correctly informed about it and to support the peace program that the SPLM/SPLA presented to the junta last August.

The SPLM/SPLA leader expounded on the movement's objective of evolving a new communality in the Sudan, to which all the Sudanese citizens pay their undivided allegiance, irrespective of their color, religion, or any other localism. Dr Garang maintains that the four-point peace program of the SPLM/SPLA has gained wide

support among the various Sudanese political forces, except the National Islamic Front, NIF, and the present junta in Khartoum. This he said is because the present government in Khartoum is the National Islamic Front in uniform.

It was actually the NIF which took over on 2 June 1989 in order to forestall the peace process that was going to result in the new Sudan, which the SPLM/SPLA has been calling for since 1983. He said the program of Al-Bashir was the same as the program of the National Islamic Front. So the junta has, therefore, called for suppression of the south, because the NIF always thinks that southern Sudan is a hinderance to the establishment of the Islamic republic in Sudan.

At the end of the meeting, the Botswana president, Dr Masire expressed appreciation and support to the SPLM/SPLA peace program and wished Dr John success in the search for peace and unity in the Sudan.

Later the SPLM/SPLA leader addressed a press conference in Radio Botswana's conference room and answered questions from journalists representing the local and the international media. Asked whether the war in the country is racial, Dr John said: It is the failure of the government in Khartoum to evolve a new Sudan that has been the problem, rather than Arabs and Africans.

The SPLM/SPLA leader explained that since independence no government in Khartoum has ever been national in creating a Sudanese communality to which we all pledge our undivided allegiance irrespective of our race or religion. He pointed that because of the movement's correctness in its policies the SPLA has moved in and received wide suport in two provinces in the north, southern Kurdufan, and southern Blue Nile, and Khartoum and other cities in the north.

The SPLM/SPLA leader described the call for suppression in Khartoum by General al-Bashir as the last kicks of the dying old Sudan and the birth pain of the Sudan as it is being born. He stressed that the unity of the country will be defended not only by the SPLA, but by the broad masses of the Sudanese people, adding that Gen 'Umar al-Bashir will be driven out of power in Khartoum by the Sudanese people, who love peace and unity.

Gen al-Bashir has neither the legitimacy nor the power to partition the country, said Dr John, who went on to say that the decision of al-Basir to partition the country does not only violate the unity of the people of the Sudan, but it also violates one of the clauses of the OAU. He said this is the first time a government that claims to be the national government in the national capital stands for suppression while guerrillas defend national unity and territorial integrity of the country. The SPLM/SPLA leader and accompanying delegation arrived in Botswana on Wednesday, 4 October, 1989. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached in Khartoum Bombers Trial

EA1010210489 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Oct (SUNA)—The defence and prosecution boards in the case of the Acropole Hotel and the Sudanese Club's detonation have agreed to give time to investigators in the case to contact the victims' relatives to explore their viewpoint regarding either pardoning the perpetrators, accepting blood money, or the reprisal. The agreement was reached after the Supreme Court had amended a rule of assassination to a murder of first degree against the perpetrators of the detonation.

Five Palestinians belonging to the so-called "Arab Revolutionary Cells" blasted off last year the Acropole Hotel and the Sudanese Club, claiming the lives of seven people.

Hard Currency Bureau Issues Daily Income Report

EA1110134889 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 11th October—The average daily income of the government-controlled free market is 400,000 U.S. dollars, the General Secretariat of the Free Markets for Hard Currency said today. It said the total income since last July up to 8 October was more than 135 million U.S. dollars. It pointed out that the money influx has not been affected by the government decision that documents should be provided when selling hard currency to the free markets. The secretariat said expatriate transfers have been on the increase since the convening of the expatriates conference in the country last month.

Western Sahara

SDAR, Morocco on Deadlocked Peace Process

LD1010214489 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Western Sahara—While the problem is debated by the UN General Assembly in New York in terms of dialogue and direct negotiations, the Moroccan press is inciting reaction and speculating about the intentions of the government following the last offensive launched by the Polisario Front. [passage omitted]

According to the Saharans, 200 Moroccan soldiers were put out of action. The Polisario explains through its representative in Europe that it is not possible, in light of Morocco's behavior in hindering the diplomatic process, to expect the military front to remain indefinitely calm. In his statement to the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS, Ahmed Boujari blames Morocco for the resumption of fighting. Suddenly the Rabat press has started its war again against what it calls the Polisario extremists, accusing them of pushing the Maghreb back to the climate prevailing before the institutional agreement of

the Arab Magreb Union. Certain newspapers go further and bring back the old threat of the famous right of pursuit if Mauritania fails to control its northern territory.

The reactivation of military operations, the cooling or even freezing of diplomatic activity, and the prospect of settling the Saharan problem this evening seem a bit far to reach. According to King Hassan II, a meeting with a representative of the Polisario Front was scheduled but it has now been canceled. According to Ibrahim Hakim, the link that King Hassan II wants to make now between Guelta Zammour and a psudomeeting is confusing. In a long interview given to our colleague at L'HORIZON, the head of the SADR's mission in Algiers dismisses any confidence in the Moroccan authorities' willingness to negotiate.

Polisario Launches 'Major Offensive' 11 Oct

NC1110143989 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Polisario Front said it had launched a "major offensive" at dawn Wednesday against Moroccan troops at Hauza in the disputed Western Sahara, in a statement issued here.

The Moroccan Army sustained "substantial" losses of both men and equipment, the statement said, adding that detailed casualty figures would be issued later.

Polisario, which has been fighting Moroccan rule since Spanish colonial forces left the former Spanish Sahara in 1975, last weekend announced that it had killed 200 Moroccan troops in its first major operation after a 9-month lull.

Moroccan King Hassan II called off a second round of talks with Polisario leaders following that attack, Moroccan papers said, but Polisario riposted that it was unaware the king had real plans to follow up the January meeting.

The United Nations is trying to mediate a settlement.

Attack Repulsed; Enemy Losses Noted

LD1110204189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The Ministry of Information has issued the following communique:

Two Polisario mercenaries' columns, one transported by cars and the other mechanized, today Wednesday 11 October 1989, launched an attack against military positions along the seventh defense line of the Hauza subsector. With their known courage, our royal armed forces confronted the enemy's infiltration attempt, and after fierce battles, halted the advance of the enemy, confronted it, and repulsed it. Also the Royal Air Force and the (Gazelle Hod) helicopters which were dispatched immediately to the spot, intervened to great effect. The outcome of these battles was as follows: 11 soldiers, including an officer with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel were killed and 10 were wounded in the ranks of the royal armed forces. The Polisario mercenaries lost 101 men, many of whose bodies were left on the spot; 2 BMB vehicles, 12 jeeps, and 6 firing positions were destroyed.

Diplomat Blames Morocco for Resuming 'War'

LD1110141589 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, 11/10/89 (APS)—"At present, it is Morocco which decided to make war instead of going towards appeasement," Ibrahim Hikam told the evening daily "HORIZONS".

The head of the SADR [Saharan Arab Democratic Republic] mission to Algiers told an interview to the daily that "The day when Morocco's king will be ready as we (the Polisario [the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] front) are now to seek a peaceful solution to this conflict (of Western Sahara), this day we start a new era."

Dealing with the resumption of military operations by the Polisario front in Western Sahara after the unilateral military truce which it decided in February 1989, Ibrahim Hakim accused King Hassan II of "using this period of end [as received] to reinforce the defence wall in Western Sahara and use his relations at the international level to buy more weapons."

"This has ended by creating obstacles which, if they are not raised, will constitute a total blockade," he added.

Asked the precise nature of these obstacles, the Saharan diplomat [word indistinct] the example of the fact that "the King of Morocco...received members of the Saharan Government as Moroccan subjects and closed the door to a fundamental step, namely the passage toward negotiations of the conditions of the referendum."

Bahrain

Iraqi Envoy Received by Amir, Leaves for Muscat

JN0810102089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Manama, 8 Oct (INA)—'Abdallah Fadil, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and minister of awqaf and religious affairs, conveyed here today a message from his excellency the president to his brother His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain.

'Abdallah Fadil also met with Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah to discuss with him the bilateral relations existing between the two fraternal countries.

Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil left for Muscat following a short visit to Bahrain.

The president's personal envoy had left Baghdad earlier today.

Mauritanian Industry Minister Delivers Message

JN1010174889 Manama WAKH in English 1604 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Manama, Oct 10 (GNA)—Mauritanian Minister of Mines and Industry Ahmed Ould Khaliah Ould Jiddou left here today for Damascus after a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of a regional tour.

During his visit, Ould Jiddou delivered a message from Mauritanian Prsident Maaouiya Ould Sidi 'Ahmed Taya to HH the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah dealing with bilateral relations and means of boosting them, current developments in the Maghreb and African arenas, and latest events between Mauritania and Senegal.

Joint Commission Begins Manama Meetings

JN0710165089 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Text] Manama, Oct 7 (GNA)—The Bahraini-Tunisian Joint Commission held its fourth meeting here this morning. The Bahraini side was headed by Director of the Economic Department at the Foreign Ministry Dr Salman al-Safar and the Tunisian side was headed by Director of International Cooperation at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry Mr Abdul 'Aziz al-Qassab.

Al-Safar stated that the meeting is aimed at developing relations between Bahrain and Tunisia in various fields, studying objectives of the previous minute which was held in Tunis in 1985 and discover new fields of cooperation between the two countries.

For his part, the Tunisian official said that the joint commission adopted basic foundations to push foreward bilateral cooperation.

Two sub-committees were formed, the Cultural and Technical Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Information Assistant Undersecretary for Culture and National Heritage Mr Khalil Al-Thawadi and an Economic Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of the Director of Commerce and Companies Affairs Dr 'Abdallah Mansur.

The two committees will discuss means of cooperation and coordination in the fields of education, information, tourism, health, labour affairs, electricity and water as well as economic, financial, industry, commerce, agriculture, employee affairs and sports and youth.

Kuwait

Oil Minister Meets U.S. Central Forces Chief

LD1010220289 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Minister of Petroleum Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Azbi met today with the commander in chief of the U.S. Central Forces Command, General Norman Schwarzkopf and the delegation accompanying him. According to KUNA, during the meeting, which was attended by members of the board of directors of the Kuwaiti oil establishment, a number of issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Trial Plans for Pro-Iranian Outlaws Denied

LD1110102189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1647 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 10 (KUNA)—The Ministry of Interior Tuesday denied as fabricated and groundless a press report by the London-based Arabic language newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-'AWSAT that members of an outlawed pro-Iranian organization would stand trial before a Kuwaiti state security tribunal next November.

In a statement to KUNA an authoritative source at the ministry described the daily's report, which was circulated by news agencies, as unfounded.

The source said Kuwait will not hesitate in publishing such news had they ever been true.

The source urged the concerned paper to be accurate in its reporting of such news in the future.

Libyan Envoy Al-Humaydi Leaves Kuwait

LD1110190189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1643 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 11 (KUNA)—Al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, envoy of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi left here today, ending a visit to Kuwait during which he conveyed a message to his highness the amir from Al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Humaydi lauded the hospitality he was accorded in Kuwait which reflected the profound fraternal ties between Libya and Kuwait.

He also hailed the Kuwaiti achievements in the various fields during his visit today to the Interior Ministry's computer center.

The Libyan envoy was seen off at the airport by Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Undersecretary Yusuf al-Kharafi and Libyan ambassador to Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah Meets With UN's Perez de Cuellar

LD1210084789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0808 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] United Nations, Oct 12 (KUNA)—Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Wednesday met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy premier and foreign minister of Kuwait, to discuss matters before the General Assembly.

The talks focused on the stalemated situation between Iraq and Iran following last year's cease-fire, the situation in the Middle East and Lebanon and the question of Palestine. Shaykh Sabah told KUNA following the meeting which he described as "fruitful."

Shaykh Sabah said Perez de Cuellar informed him he would send his special representative on Iraq and Iran, Jan Eliasson of Sweden, to both countries later this month.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister said he expressed satisfaction over the "serious effort" undertaken by the UN in all matters between Iraq and Iran and expressed hope that peace will be reached between the two countries and that security and stability will prevail in the region.

Following this meeting Shaykh Sabah also met with Eliasson with whom he discussed the ongoing negotiations aimed at finding a lasting peace in the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Shaykh Sabah is expected to deliver a speech late Thursday afternoon before the General Assembly's 44th session.

Indian Official Deported for Gold Smuggling

BK0810103289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 8 (AFP)—Kuwait has deported an Indian intelligence officer posted to the Indian Embassy there on charges of smuggling gold, THE TIMES OF INDIA reported Sunday [8 October].

Bhupinder Singh, a first secretary, was declared persona non grata by the Kuwaiti Government after he was caught allegedly trying to airmail gold chains and bangles to India in a diplomatic pouch, THE TIMES said, citing unidentified sources. The newspaper identified Mr Singh as an Indian police service officer assigned to the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency.

THE TIMES said the deportation occurred recently, but did not give a date. The RAW, which functions in absolute secrecy, does not comment on news reports and Federal Home Ministry officials were not available for comment. Mr Singh was reportedly posted to Kuwait about two years ago.

THE TIMES said the Kuwaiti police became suspicious about Mr Singh and put him under watch after seeing him buy gold regularly with foreign currency. He was suspected of sending out the gold in sealed diplomatic pouches, the report said.

Mr Singh was asked to return home after policemen opened one such pouch in August and allegedly found the gold chains and bangles, the newspaper said. THE TIMES said Mr Singh was the second RAW official deported to India since the Australian Government recently ordered out a RAW agent after he allegedly molested a girl in his hotel room.

The newspaper reported that some RAW employees were angry that the government had not filed smuggling charges against Mr Singh, who has been reassigned to the police in northern Uttar Pradesh State. The RAW is known to maintain its agents in Indian Embassies worldwide under diplomatic cover. Most are accorded the status of first secretary.

PDRY

Party Leader Meets Nicaragua's Ortega in Berlin

EA0910154189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Brother Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, met Comrade Daniel Ortega, the general coordinator of the Sandinist front and president of the Republic of Nicaragua, in Berlin this afternoon. During their meeting they reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the YSP and the Sandinist front and between the peoples of the two friendly countries, as well as the latest developments in the Arab and Latin American arenas and particularly the situation in the Palestinian arena and the Lebanese issues. [passage omitted].

For his part, Comrade Ortega gave a briefing on the situation in Latin America and the efforts being made by Nicaragua to settle disputes by peaceful means to strengthen the security and stability of the region. The brother secretary general expressed the support of our party and people for all the Nicaraguan peace initiatives. He also stressed Democratic Yemen's solidarity with [words indistinct].

Al-Bid Meets Jakes, 'Arafat, Ceausescu in Berlin

EA0910085989 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] This afternoon brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, received separately in his residence in the [East German] capital, Berlin, Comrade Milos Jakes, secretary general of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and Brother Yasir 'Arafat, head of state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. He discussed with each of them bilateral relations between the YSP and the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and the PLO. They also reviewed major Arab and international developments, particularly in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas. The brother secretary general explained to each of them Democratic Yemen's stance on the major issues in the region. He reiterated our party's and our country's support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their valiant uprising until they have achieved their aims of self-determination and an independent state on Palestinian soil.

The two meetings were attended by Brothers Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdullah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; and Dr Salih Muhsin al-Haj, member of the Central Committee, secretary of the Central Committee, and director of the Office of the Secretary General.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid also visited Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania in his residence in the capital, Berlin.

During the meeting, they reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries. They emphasized the importance of developing and strengthening these relations in order to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples and countries. On the international situation, the two sides stressed the importance of solving regional disputes by peaceful means and striving to create equal economic relations. They affirmed the importance of maintaining security and stability in the world and reinforcing relations of cooperation among peoples in order to serve international security and peace.

Iraqi Health Minister To Deliver Message in Aden

JN1010221689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Aden, 10 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id, arrived in Aden today.

The envoy will deliver a written message from President Saddam Husayn to President al-'Attas dealing with bilateral relations and current Arab events.

Delivers Message to Al-'Attas

JN1010222289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1812 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Aden, 10 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id, has delivered a message from his excellency to his brother the PDRY president.

PDRY President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas received President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy in Aden this evening, who handed him the message.

The meeting was attended by Yemeni Health Minister Dr Sa'id Sharaf and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Aden.

Leaves Aden for Baghdad

JN1010221889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Aden, 10 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas left Aden for Baghdad this evening.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy, Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id, had earlier delivered a message from his excellency to his brother the president of the People's Deomcratic Republic of Yemen.

United Arab Emirates

Deputy Prime Minister Dies 11 October

JN1210063989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Oct (WAKH)—It was announced in Abu Dhabi this evening that Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], died tonight.

This came in a statement issued by the UAE President's office.

The statement declared 7 days of public mourning and a 3-day holiday for ministries and local departments.

The funeral of the great deceased will be held after Thursday's afternoon prayers.

Paper Raps U.S. Vote in UN General Assembly

JN0910203989 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 8 Oct 89 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] Once again—and not for the last time—the whole world was yesterday unanimous in its condemnation of Israel's policy in the occupied Arab territories. The UN General Assembly called for protecting the civilians and

this resolution was supported by 140 states and opposed by one state alone—the United States—along with, naturally, the Zionist entity, while only 6 states abstained from voting.

This international unanimity came only a day after the Israeli Cabinet decided to reject the Egyptian plan to hold elections between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegations. This decision will, at least, "hamper" the peace process—a process whose continuation and development Washington claims to be concerned about. So, does Washington's claim of seeking to achieve a settlement jibe with its position of backing and supporting Israel—and at the time when the United States stands on one side of the fence while the whole world stands on the other?

On the same day when the United Nations voted on Israel's aggressive policy in the occupied Arab territories, a British newspaper reported that West Germany will give, via the United States, two of the most modern submarines to the Zionist entity. At the same time, an Israeli newspaper cited the reputable London Institute of Strategic Studies as saying that Israel is testing a 7,000-km range missile. These tests are certainly not made without U.S. aid and help.

Few days ago, it was reported that Washington will not offer any aid to the Zionist entity which may be used for settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories. So, if this is true, is it in accord with the U.S. vote yesterday in the United Nations which was made in a manner that protects occupation and its aggressiveness as well as settlement activities in our occupied territories?

This is only one of the questions which the U.S. vote raises. This is because the numerous and consecutive U.S. positions will make us—sooner or later—ask ourselves: Is the United States fit to act as mediator between us and our enemy?

Yemen Arab Republic

President Defends Country's Membership in ACC

PM0610133789 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Oct 89 pp 18-19

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by 'Afaf Zayn in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Mr President, the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] displeased some Arab parties, which saw it as a regional power enjoying a military capability represented by Iraq and a diplomatic capability represented by Egypt. This is in addition to the influential strategic position of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

Do you believe there is any justification for such fears? And what prompted Sanaa to join the grouping?

The President: First, we have announced on more than one occasion that the ACC is not a political bloc aimed at anyone. It is actually a realistic formula for economic integration action among its four founder states. It is a step forward toward achieving comprehensive Arab unity. It works within the Arab League framework, so any fears or doubts about it are unjustified. The establishment of the ACC is no cause for fear, any more than was that of the other Arab grouping such as the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], which no one said displeased them or raised their fears.

Second, our country's presence in that Arab unionist grouping is a natural thing, exactly like any other state which is a GCC or UMA member. And our participation in the establishment of the ACC proceeds from our firm conviction of the importance of strengthening the march of solidarity and common Arab action and developing cooperation and integration areas among the Arab states on realistic foundations, with a view to achieving the Arab nation's interests and realizing its objectives and aspirations. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Regarding the question of drawing the borders with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the 1934 agreement, which is renewable and about which there has been a lot of whispering, is it true that Sanaa is turning to procrastination regarding the renewal of the agreement, and that it promised to do that after the Shura Council elections and then ignored the matter once preparations started for the establishment of the quadripartite grouping? And what is the truth about the reports of the YAR's desire to recover the areas it lost under the 1934 agreement?

The President: We in the YAR do not see that borders in the Arab world should be a problem. We advocate a comprehensive Arab unity and one Arab homeland without any borders, because we are the sons of one Arab nation. We see the stirring up of border problems between the Arab homeland's states from time to time as being designed to push these fraternal states into marginal conflicts which serve only the objectives and schemes of the Arab nation's enemies. We believe that the ideal means to resolve border problems, if they arise, between any two fraternal states is negotiation, dialogue, and brotherly understanding within the framework of each state's historical and legal rights.

AL-HAWADITH: Following your meeting with U.S. Vice President George Bush in 1986 after his arrival in Sanaa from Riyadh, it was reported that you had informed the U.S. official that Yemeni decisionmaking had come of age.

How would you assess Sanaa's relationship with Riyadh, and has that relationship been affected since the establishment of the quadripartite grouping? Will the ACC's establishment and your membership of it contribute to preserving the independence of Yemeni decisionmaking?

The President: Yemeni decisionmaking is independent, and Yemeni-Saudi relations are special. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen did not attend the anniversary of your revolution this year. What was the reason for his absence? It was also noted that the talk about unity and plans for unity subsided in Sanaa with the preparation for your joining of the ACC.

Is your joining of the quadripartite grouping an alternative to unity with the southern part?

The President: The Yemeni homeland is one and the Yemeni people's movement within it is a natural thing. And participation does not require invitations, because it takes place within the framework of one family.

A delegation from the southern part headed by brother the defense minister joined us on the 27th anniversary of the revolution.

In any event, Yemeni revolution celebrations are not confined to one part of the Yemeni homeland. The revolution belongs to all Yemenis without exception, both in the North and in the South of the homeland.

AL-HAWADITH: In your view, how can a compromise be reached to facilitate the unity process?

The President: There is still agreement between the two parts to assess the two political experiments of the two parts of the homeland via the unified political organization committee assigned to carry out that task.

In the light of the results of its objective assessment of each experiment, and by benefiting from the positive aspects and avoiding the negative aspects, we can arrive at a common view and formula that takes into account the factors in Yemeni reality; that is, without copying others or being influenced by them, but, rather, by benefiting from their experiments. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It was noted that the leaders of the Red Sea countries did not attend your revolution anniversary celebrations this year. Has their absence any political meaning that could do harm, namely, by making you give predominance to your move toward the Arab region over your move toward the Red Sea region and coordination with the Red Sea states, to establish an organization whose task is to preserve its security and keep it away from the phenomenon of competing to plant military bases on its shores?

The President: We always emphasize and pursue the policy of keeping the Red Sea out of international conflicts and avoiding turning it into a center for other states' military bases or fleets. We are always eager to keep the Red Sea a region of security and peace, and we have emphasized once again that the security of the Red Sea remains the task of the Red Sea states, among which there is continued cooperation.

And the Red Sea's security had nothing to do with its states' participation in our people's celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the revolution. We maintain cordial relations with them—relations based on cooperation, mutual respect, and good-neighborliness. These relations are growing continuously to achieve the common objectives of this region's peoples.

AL-HAWADITH: Ethiopia overlooks the Red Sea via the Eritrean coastline. Would you prefer to deal with an Eritrean political entity applying self-rule within the framework of a unified Ethiopian state, or to deal with an independent Eritrean state whose political orientations are unknown?

The President: We support and back all sincere efforts to achieve security and stability in the Horn of Africa region, because that concerns us in Yemen in particular and pan-Arab security in general. And a solution to the Eritrean problem would constitute an important and major prelude to achieving that. We are for any option or solution agreed by the parties to the problem that will end it within the framework of peaceful negotiation guaranteeing the rights of all and the security and stability of the region.

AL-HAWADITH: The ACC has intermingled major issues that concern the Arab region by virtue of the geographical position of Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.

How do you see the future of the solutions raised in Lebanon, and why did the Sanaa summit's final statement not make reference to the need for Israel to withdraw from Lebanon? And why did it, as the Iraqi president did in his speech, not hold Syria responsible for what is happening there?

Was Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Sanaa a few weeks before the summit an exploratory one, and what did you tell him in that regard?

The President: In its press statement the ACC proceeded from its commitment to the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Casablanca, stressing its eagerness to bolster all efforts and endeavors to achieve fraternal Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence. The Lebanese people's predicament can only be ended when all the Lebanese parties reach an understanding and agreement on a national accord formula that guarantees Lebanon peace, harmony, and peaceful coexistence among its groups and sects. And we optimistically aspire to a solution to that problem in view of the sincere efforts being exerted by the Arab tripartite committee and the promises made by the parties to the conflict in the Lebanese arena—that is, by backing its endeavors to end the fraternal Lebanese people's predicament.

As for the Israeli presence in Lebanon, we in Yemen and the ACC urge Israel on every occasion to withdraw not only from Lebanon, but from all the Arab territories defiled by occupation.

Regarding Syrian Vice President brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Sanaa, it was within the framework of the brotherly relations and the exchange of visits between the two fraternal states and their continuing consultation over the issues and developments that concern our Arab nation. During that visit all the dimensions of the Lebanese problem were discussed, as we stressed our position and our concern for Lebanon's stability, unity, Arabism, and independence. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is your position on Egypt's 10 points, and do you believe they can achieve the Palestinian people's aspirations?

The President: We support the Palestinian people represented by the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, in any approach they agree and in any initiative which the Palestinian brothers believe will guarantee for them the recovery of their national rights and the establishment of their state independence on their national soil. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Messages to President Salih

JN0910151989 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Sanaa, Oct 9, INA—President Saddam Husayn's envoy to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic, Mr Akram Abd-al-Qadir, minister of justice, arrived here today carrying a message from President Husayn to President Salih.

He was received in Sanaa airport by Mr Muhsin al-'Ulufi, the Yemeni minister of justice.

President Husayn's envoy delivered yesterday and today messages to King Husayn of Jordan and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

Departs After Conveying Message

JN1010220689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Brother Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir, Iraqi justice minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy, left Sanaa today following a 2-day visit to our country during which he conveyed a written message to President Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message concerned recent developments in Arab affairs, issues of common interest to the Arab Cooperation Council member states, and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

PDRY Labor Minister Leaves Sanaa After Talks

JN0910131389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Jabir Rashid, minister of labor and civil service in the southern part of our homeland, left Sanaa today after a visit of several days during which he met with a number of officials from the ministries of Social Affairs and Labor and Civil Service and Administrative Reform.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, brother 'Uthman Rashid described the visit as beneficial. He said he was briefed on all issues concerning legislation on labor and laborers. He said that during his meeting with the minister of social affairs and labor and the minister of civil service and administrative reform, they signed the minutes of an agreement aimed to expand coordination between the two parts, and entrench a basis for coordination of legislation concerning laborers and social security, as well as for dealing with labor and civil service issues within the framework of efforts to reunite the two parts of the homeland.

He was seen off by brother Muhammad Ahmad Luqman, minister of labor and social affairs and Standing Committee member, and a number of officials from the Ministry and Unity Affairs Bureau.

Swedish Trade Minister Holds Talks in Sanaa

JN1010214289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] A Yemeni-Swedish session of talks was held tonight at the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade. The Yemeni side was headed by Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade; and the Swedish side by Anita Gradin, minister of trade. During the session, the two sides praised the bilateral relations between the two countries in the commercial field. The Swedish official announced her country's readiness to provide 100 million Swedish krona—equivalent to $13 million—as technical loan to our country. The two sides reviewed issues of cooperation between the two countries and the possibility of expanding them in various fields.

Received by Prime Minister

JN1110205289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received Anita Gradin, Swedish foreign minister, and her delegation this morning.

They reviewed bilateral relations in the various fields. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade; and by Lennart Alvin, Swedish nonresident ambassador to our country.

Saddam Husayn Meets Libya's Al-Humaydi

LD1110094689 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, al-Tumur [October] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Saddam Husayn of sisterly Iraq received yesterday morning Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi who relayed to him a letter from the leader of the revolution.

President Husayn stressed his active support to all the items and proposals contained in his letter reaffirming the pan-Arabism and comprehensiveness of its revolutionary contents, apart from its strategic and unionist dimensions.

He expressed his appreciation and respect to this letter in relation to its pan-Arabist illumination reaffirming the genuine orientations for unity of the Great al-Fatih Revolution.

A dialogue was conducted between Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and President Husayn during this two-hour meeting (?discussing) and taking analytical stock of Arab stance and various Arab and pan-Arab matters stressing the support to the joint Arab action mobilizing all Arab potentials for encountering the imperialist-Zionist schemes targetting the Arab homeland.

Present at this meeting were Dr. Sad'un Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice-premier, Mr. Latif Jasim, minister of culture and information, the accompanying delegation to Major al-Humaydi and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in sisterly Iraq.

Earlier Sunday night, Major al-Humaydi arrived in Iraq within the purview of his unionist action tour currently [word indistinct] to a number of Arab countries by a consignment by the leader of the revolution.

Major al-Humaydi was received by Dr. Hammadi and by the secretary and members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Iraq.

Saddam Husayn's Message on Prophet's Birthday

JN1110113489 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 11, INA—President Saddam Husayn addressed a message on the occasion of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday and published today by the Iraqi newspapers.

In his message President Husayn said that the Almighty God had announced through the birth of Prophet Mohammad which was blessed later with prophecy that what was required to start a new trend by humanity and that the humanity who had developed a new stage with the birth of Jesus Christ and with his God-blessed prophecy was also required to advance towards a new stage. The message said that the Arabs who led the stage of conveying the message of the Almighty God during the era of Jesus Christ and afterwards did not finish their role in conveying the will of God on earth through a new messenger. The Arabs' role did not come to an end as fighters of holy war and struggle and as a model that facilitates the mission of humanity towards justice.

President Husayn said that the Arabs were the nation which was chosen by the Almighty God to play a leading role to obey his will and to convey the message to the humans on earth.

He added that the end of the messenger's role in conveying the messages of heavens to earth and the absence of the prophets did not end the role of the Arab nation in leading humanity through the pioneering model and through practising the meanings required by the Almighty God. The president added that this made it necessary for us to remember our role and not to forget it. He said that the other nations should also remember that the leading role was chosen by the Almighty God for the Arabs.

The president said that the Arabs must continue to be the good example and to practice their role on this basis. He said that words and repeated sentences and expressions and even announcing and reciting the verses of the holy Koran are not enough in practicing the role and responsibility.

He said that the mere speech about this only will increase the Arabs' burdens of not carrying out their role and will also increase the burdens of humanity.

President Husayn said that the right beginning in terms of conception and practice is to rebalance between the material and the spiritual and moral with a specific priority to the spiritual and moral considerations. He said that the entire humanity needs this example which was reflected by the Arabs in mind and work through the prosperous stages of the human march under the leadership of the Arab nation.

President Husayn said that the required thing is to obey the meaning of the heavenly message conveyed to Prophet Muhammad and to regain the leading and effective role of the Arab nation which was chosen by the Almighty God due to the ability of the Arabs to act and to lead and due to their readiness to sacrifice and to contribute and above all the Arabs were capable by the blessing of the Almighty God to understand his message and its meanings.

The humanity, the president said, is in need of this example endorsed by the Arabs to it.

He said that humanity in the West as well as in the East is putting itself on the edge of a very deep abyss and in a real crisis and it is in a dire need for the role of the Arab nation not in a direct message role this time because Muhammad was the last messenger and prophet, but with a role inspired by the message meaning towards the nation and humanity. [sentence as received]

He said that humanity was shaken and it is on its way to a real catastrophe if the Arabs do not guide it with the heavenly meanings.

Those who think that the crisis in the communist countries is a mere crisis resulted from comparing between production and productivity in the West in terms of quality and quantity and the production and productivity in the communist countries according to a well-known measure, are mistaken, as the crisis is deeper than that and it exists basically in the West which generalized it all over the world and it took a trend different from that it had followed in the West.

He said if the phenomena we see nowadays in the communist experience show their crisis and the imbalance that occured between the material and the moral things and this indicates their crisis. The West, he said, is not very far from witnessing similar days or worse than them because it had the first responsibility for them.

Saddam Chairs Government-Party Meeting 11 Oct

JN1110154189 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn this morning chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council, the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Council of Ministers. During the meeting, which lasted more than 3 hours, the conferees discussed the topics listed on the agenda. Proper measures were taken and decisions were made concerning these topics.

The discussions centered on ways to enhance the educational process and to promote rewards and incentives to achieve this end. The conferees also discussed the launching of incentives for employees working at economic units affiliated with the socialist sector to spark an increase in production and productivity.

The conferees also discussed a number of production projects contained in the plans of the agriculture production sector. The projects discussed also provide for expanding the unloading, loading, and storage capacities of Iraqi ports and activating Iraqi exports.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, touched on the results of the contacts made by the Iraqi delegation during its participation in the 44th session of the UN General Assembly. He reviewed the main points of the report UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar submitted to the UN Security Council on extending the mandate of the UN observer group tasked with supervising the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. He also reviewed the need to accelerate the exchange of prisoners of war and not to link the issue to the political aspects of the Iraq-Iran negotiations for the implementation of the principles of international law and the Geneva Convention of 1949 on POW's.

'Aziz expressed his appreciation of the efforts being made by the UN Security Council in this regard. He also reviewed the deliberations held and the international positions voiced on the Palestine question and on efforts to achieve peace in the region.

CSSR Trade Minister Meets Ramadan, Departs

JN1110174089 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 11, INA—Jan Sterba, Czechoslovak minister of external trade, expressed great satisfaction over the positive results of his visit to Iraq for boosting relations of economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Czechoslovak minister and the delegation accompanying him today left Baghdad at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Iraq.

Speaking to INA before departure, Mr. Sterba said that his meetings with Iraqi officials were constructive and fruitful and that discussions touched on technical, trade, industrial and economic relations and the agenda of the 9th session of the joint Iraqi-Czechoslovak committee due in Baghdad late this year.

Earlier today, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier, received Mr. Sterba and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan stressed that Iraq would witness a new development that will provide the exploitation of all potentials of the people for reconstruction and building new Iraq.

He affirmed that Iraq's economic relations would also witness big expansion with all world countries as Iraq possesses the necessary human and material resources and the preparedness for employing them in service of comprehensive development.

The Czechoslovak external trade minister expressed his country's readiness to promote relations with Iraq and extolled the current development seen by Iraq in all domains.

Mr. Ramadan and the minister also reviewed the topics to be discussed by the Czechoslovak prime minister during his visit to Iraq next Saturday and other matters contributing to stepping up bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

Syrian Pilot Lands MiG-23 at Megiddo, Defects

Pilot's Motives Investigated

TA1110121989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] A Syrian MiG-23 fighter and its lone pilot landed near an Air Force base in the north at noon. The pilot, who has the rank of major, defected to Israel alone in an unarmed MiG-23 aircraft, which is not known in the West. The pilot is now being interrogated to ascertain his motive.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and several major generals arrived at the base shortly after the Cabinet meeting ended to closely study the affair. These are the details permitted for release at this stage.

2d MiG Said To Land in Egypt

TA1110153389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The MiG or MiG's affair: The Syrian MiG pilot who landed in Israel has asked for political asylum here. This is reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht. The interrogation of the pilot, Major 'Adil Basim, aged 34, is still under way.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe says that the Syrian claim that the aircraft made an emergency landing is inconceivable. If this was the case, the pilot should have abandoned the plane and allowed it to crash, and not let it fall into Israeli hands with its equipment and secrets. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 11 October adds: "At the same time, it became apparent that another Syrian MiG-23 landed in Alexandria today. This plane's pilot apparently wanted to defect from Syria. The Defense Ministry in Cairo has denied the report on the landing of the Syrian aircraft. Reports from Egypt, however, confirm the story."]

MiG To Be Moved to Air Base

TA1110173889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The Syrian MiG pilot who landed in Israel said in his interrogation that he defected and specifically chose Israel. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] followed the MiG, but that Air Force aircraft did not escort it. Military sources stressed that the IDF had no prior information about the defection.

The MiG-23 landed this morning in a civilian airstrip near 'Afula and will be flown tonight to an Air Force base in the north.

The MiG-23 constitutes the major part of Syrian Air Force power. The examination of the plane in Israel will reveal large amounts of information about its avionics and radar systems.

Landing 'Utter Surprise'

TA1110195089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Excerpts] A thorough debriefing into the circumstances of the landing of the Syrian MiG-23 before noon today at the Megiddo airstrip is being conducted this evening by the Air Force and at the chief of staff's office. The landing of the plane came as an utter surprise, and security forces were summoned to the scene by pilots of the commercial firm, Chemavir, who were at the airstrip. The pilot said he wanted to defect, but he has not yet explained his motives. Another Syrian plane defected today and landed near Alexandria in Egypt. The pilot who arrived in Israel escaped while on a routine flight near the Golan Heights. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports:

A few minutes after 1100 this morning, farmers near the civilian airstrip in Megiddo used by crop dusters and gliders had a surprise. An upgraded MiG-23 surprisingly landed on the runway. We say surprisingly, because nobody was really expecting it. A Syrian major, an unmarried 34 year old, 'Adil Basim, came out of the plane. He raised his hands and said he had no hostile intentions.

The story began a few minutes earlier. The plane of the Syrian major and another plane were on a training flight on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights. Flying low, Basim's plane suddenly turned toward Israeli territory and, within 3 to 4 minutes, landed on the runway at Megiddo. Incidentally, the plane was not armed with missiles. We will deal with the surprise caused by its landing later on in the report.

This is a Syrian intercept plane, an upgraded MiG-23 MLD, which first began flying in the Soviet Union in the late 1960's. The first MiG-23's reached the Arab countries at the end of the Yom Kippur War. [passage omitted]

A thorough debriefing is being conducted this evening by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Air Force to check how it is possible that an enemy plane managed to penetrate Israel, land on a civilian runway, and take us by surprise. The IDF's communique mentions that the plane was being escorted, but we could not get a confirmation on whether it was escorted by fighter planes. How could they know that this was a plane whose pilot intended to defect, rather than a pilot who decided to carry out a kamikaze operation? The flight distance from the Golan Heights is brief, only 3 to 4 minutes, and the plane was flying at high speed. Clearly, a plane flying at high speed and at low altitude has high penetration capabilities. Even if the plane was being followed at

various stages and with various means, the fact is that its landing and its penetration came as a surprise.

Many questions still remain, but the fact is that an enemy plane managed to penetrate Israel, cross it almost width-wise, and land at a short runway for civilian planes—all this in utter surprise.

Syria Wants Pilot Returned

TA1210063589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Gadi Hitman]

[Excerpt] It is now clear that Syria is very embarassed by the MiG-23 affair. This morning, almost 24 hours after the incident, Radio Damascus is silent and does not even mention the affair.

It appears that the Syrians want to conclude the affair hastily and quietly. Proof of this may be found in the fact that 2 hours after the defection took place, Damascus filed a request with the Red Cross to return the pilot. Last night, Red Cross representatives in Israel were asked to appeal to the Israeli authorities to return the pilot. [passage omitted]

Rabin Discusses MiG Incident, Peace Initiative

TA1110210389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yoram Ronen, Yig'al Goren, and Victor Nahmias on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Good evening to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and to my colleagues Yig'al Goren and Victor Nahmias. Mr Minister, was there some malfunctioning in our air control system when it failed to detect the Syrian plane as it entered Israel?

[Rabin] Look, in your place I would phrase the question differently: Why was the MiG-23 not intercepted and downed?

[Ronen] Why?

[Rabin] I will not discuss the details of the air control system at this time, or at what stage and what we observed or did not observe while the plane was inside Syria. I will not comment on what our observations revealed at the front line on the Golan Heights, or what our various aircraft saw on the Golan Heights, or what were the considerations of the air controller in deciding whether to send our planes out or not. All these issues must be examined in detail, and this is already being done. In retrospect, in this case, it was fortunate we did not shoot down the plane, because we have come into possession of a sophisticated model MiG-23, an MLD. This is one of the most sophisticated MiG-23s that was delivered to the Syrians after 1982, and it will certainly serve as a source of information for us and others.

[Goren] But Mr Defense Minister, this was a situation in which an enemy fighter plane penetrated Israeli air space and landed without being intercepted or hit.

[Rabin] I have admitted this. It is a fact. He was not intercepted and was not shot down, and all the air control system, what we discovered or not, how we read the signs, what our deliberations were in whether to launch interceptors or not—and there indeed were such deliberations—we are examining all this now.

[Nahmias] Mr Rabin, did the pilot plan to land in Israel? What were the motives he revealed in his first debriefing today?

[Rabin] From what I heard when I met with him, together with the chief of staff and other officers, this was no snap decision he made in the last day or two. His motives were personal.

[Goren] At any rate, you can state with certainty that Israel's air control and defense systems are such that the infiltration of enemy planes at high or low altitudes can be prevented, and the possibility of a surprise such as we experienced today can be ruled out?

[Rabin] Look, there are some issues that are very hard to talk about freely, and explain the difference, for example, between a plane that flies over as a result of a high or middle-level decision on an operational mission and a plane that, while on a training flight near the border, suddenly decides to cross over. But all this is under investigation, so we can learn our lessons and draw conclusions.

[Nahmias] Can we safely assume that the information we will glean from the plane and perhaps also from the pilot, and which I imagine will be worth its weight in gold, will be put at the disposal of the United States, which has signed a strategic cooperation agreement with us?

[Rabin] I imagine so. [passage omitted]

[Nahmias] Mr Rabin, do you consider U.S. Secretary of State Baker's five points a U.S. initiative? Do you desire a U.S. initiative? What role do you envision for the United States in the imbroglio of the peace process?

[Goren] I would like to add another question: Do you see, if at all, a difference between the U.S. initiative and that of President Mubarak, or do you think they are the same wine but in a different bottle?

[Rabin] Let us get something straight. Israel approached the United States with its initiative and asked the latter to help realize it. The Americans were already involved in a dialogue with the PLO in which they tried to persuade the latter to give a green light to the inhabitants of the territories to start talks with us on elections, which is the key to budging the initiative—but they did not succeed. [passage omitted]

I take a positive view of the Egyptian proposal. In actual fact, we must provide an answer to three questions: Are

we ready to accept the Egyptian willingness to bring about a Palestinian-Israeli meeting? What will be the composition of the Palestinian delegation? On what basis will the delegations come to the talks so that the meeting produces results?

[Ronen] At this point, the Inner Cabinet has rejected the first question. In other words, the Egyptian proposal for a meeting has been rejected.

[Rabin] I am not sure that we can say, as far as our commitment stemming from the Camp David accords is concerned, that Egypt is not part of the process. If you read the first clause of the Israeli Government's peace initiative, there you will find a call to consult with Egypt because peace between Israel and Egypt is the cornerstone to broader peace.

[Goren] But the prime minister says that he is not obliged to accept every Egyptian proposal. The prime minister favors the Egyptian proposal on the one hand, but says that he is not obliged to accept every proposal, and that the Egyptians want to get us together with the PLO through the back door.

[Rabin] The Alignment does not accept all the clauses in Mubarak's proposal. As a rule, negotiations are not conducted on the basis of: N-O, take it or leave it [previous six words in English]. Mubarak has come out with a proposal. Basically, he accepts the principle of elections by inhabitants of the territories of representatives from their midst. He accepts the principle of progress in stages. He mentions some other points, which I do not accept. One point I accept, and I submit a counterproposal—this one I accept, and this I want to add—that is, how negotiations are to be conducted: not by getting up and going home if one does not accept the opening positions.

[Ronen] Mr Rabin, would you say that at this point the United States will be the one that will save both the Mubarak initiative and the national unity government?

[Rabin] The U.S. Government is trying to bridge the gap between Egypt and Israel in a bid to promote Mubarak's proposed meeting of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo.

[Nahmias] You have just mentioned that the United States has been trying—and Egypt has joined these efforts—to persuade the PLO in Tunis to allow leaders in the territories to enter negotiations with us without the PLO's official banner. Are you still hopeful about these efforts, despite the fact that you have just agreed with me that the United States has failed and that Egypt has not yet succeeded either?

[Rabin] I cannot speak on behalf of the Likud, the prime minister, or the foreign minister. I think they are facing quite a tough problem by totally rejecting the proposal. Jamil al-Tarifi conferred with the prime minister, and I suppose that he did not obtain the PLO's approval a priori. Later he went abroad and apparently conferred with 'Arafat. Does this rule him out as a member of the delegation? Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj went abroad and conferred with 'Arafat. Does this rule him out as a member of the delegation? Not in my view.

[Ronen] But it does in the prime minister's view.

[Rabin] I do not know; I am stating my position. Therefore, the problem is not whether a green light has or has not been given to a delegation to negotiations aimed at budging the key issue. After all, what is the basis for the chance I see of making progress toward the implementation of the peace initiative? The basis is the elections. I believe that the inhabitants of the territories who, for the first time since May 1948 are leading the struggle for the Palestinian cause and are suffering, are more interested than 'Arafat and his gangsters in Tunis in promoting the process.

[Ronen] But they will do nothing without 'Arafat's approval.

[Rabin] The problem is how to accord them legitimate status. We would accord them international and moral status by holding the elections. Then they would be more independent.

[Nahmias] Until then, are you willing to give your agreement, even a tacit one, to have the PLO behind the scenes?

[Rabin] I do not know what behind the scenes means. As far as I am concerned, contacts must be held with Egypt and Palestinians in the territories. According to our initiative, the initial stage is the composition of the Palestinian delegation. If they propose a delegation that is unacceptable to me, I will tell them: Sirs, I will not sit with this delegation. If they propose Muhammad Milhim and 'Akram Aniyah, I will tell them: No, they are PLO functionaries and they cannot be members of the delegation. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Amid all this wrangling about who are and who are not PLO men, do you really see a chance of arriving at negotiations, or are you actually saying that those who reject the Egyptian initiative are trying to cover up or disguise their lack of desire to arrive at negotiations? Perhaps they do not want anything.

[Rabin] I will not go into that.

[Goren] I have been told that you have recently stated in closed meetings that you do not quite believe in the Likud's desire to attain real peace.

[Rabin] I did not say such a thing. Referring to the ministers who authored the braces, who after opposing and voting against the government initiative and describing it as a national disaster, all of a sudden came out in its defense—I said that there is something fishy and incomprehensible about this.

Let us go back to your question. Was there anyone among us who did not know that the inhabitants of the

territories would not come to negotiations with us against the wishes of the entire Arab world? Herein lies the importance of Mubarak's proposal to hold the meeting between the two delegations, in Egypt's backing of the move in accordance with the outline of the Israeli initiative. Mubarak determines the composition of the delegation and gives us the right to veto it by saying that we will not come to negotiations with such a delegation, and I care very little with whom he consults. [passage omitted]

Those who oppose Mubarak's initiative are actually blocking the possibility of building a Palestinian leadership from among the inhabitants of the territories, an authentic leadership that would represent the interests of the inhabitants of the territories, because, without elections, there is no possibility of constructing one.

[Ronen] Mr Rabin, do you believe that at the end of November, when the prime minister returns from his trip to Washington, it will be possible to set up an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo?

[Rabin] I very much hope so, because I see a rare opportunity this time, a significant chance to implement the government's peace initiative. A political initiative has no significance if it remains on paper only. The test for a political initiative is to what extent it can be materialized. Therefore, there is a chance here to bring about elections, and I have explained why elections are the key to building a leadership made up of residents of the territories that will have the power, strength, and capacity to represent what I believe they—and sometimes I, too, hear this from them, or from some of them—really want represented. They really want to move toward a political solution.

[Goren] And what can the Labor Party contribute to this? You, for all practical purposes, are out of the picture at this stage, and even the forum of four is not active on this issue.

[Rabin] It could be that someone's problems of personal prestige are playing a part here. As far as I am concerned, the essential matter is what is important. And if I do not know exactly what the five points are, or am not aware of some issue discussed in the conversation between Arens and Baker, I could not care less. What I am interested in is whether the Americans' focusing on Arens and Shamir and not on Peres and myself at this stage will further the peace initiative. If so, I fervently support it. [passage omitted]

'Likud Source' Says Baker's Proposal Withdrawn

TA1110172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] A senior Likud source has said that Secretary of State Baker has withdrawn his 4-point [as heard] proposal, which includes an item that gives Israel the right to veto the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Another item in dispute says that Israel could raise any reservation it might have concerning the elections process. This was learned this evening by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening told a Likud ministers meeting that Israel would be willing to discuss elections procedures according to its peace initiative. Nevertheless, we will not agree to PLO participation in the process, and the Americans should be aware of the fact that if the PLO is in, Israel is out.

Likud Central Committee Members Review Options

TA1210061889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Report by Lea Zinder]

[Text] Last night's informal meeting of the Likud Central Committee, convened by Ministers Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i, was a clear expression of the discontent among some members of the Likud, even though it avoided direct confrontation. Yitzhaq Moda'i said: The way the political process is being handled by the present government, the best thing is to hold elections.

[Begin Moda'i recording] I said: Not only would it not be such a bad thing, it would be better than dragging this national unity government around without a clear direction. [end recording]

However, Ari'el Sharon took a different position:

[Begin Sharon recording] I do not think that if an Arab leader or even our American friends came with a proposal that we do not accept, that this should push the nation into elections. [end recording]

The three ministers complained that decisions vital to the very existence of the state were being made in an amateur fashion, in closed rooms, by a handful of people. Sharon and Moda'i said at yesterday's meeting of Likud ministers that they had asked—almost begged—to see the document containing Secretary of State Baker's five points and had been denied. Sharon said he had written twice to Prime Minister Shamir and asked him to name a date for a meeting of the Likud Central Committee, but had not even received a reply. Sharon asked his applauding audience: Are our leaders afraid to appear before the Central Committee? He added: If I cannot coordinate, if I cannot get an answer, the Central Committee will be convened.

Sharon referred to what he called the deteriorating security situation and spoke mockingly, in an obvious reference to Yitzhaq Rabin, of this miniature, irrelevant imitation of Churchill. Sharon said Prime Minister Shamir's statement that he would never talk to the PLO or members of it did not satisfy him.

[Begin Sharon recording] Everyone of us understands that one should not talk to the PLO. Also at issue is

where the talks are going to take place. It should be very clear that Israel cannot conduct any talks in Egypt. [end recording]

Egypt, said Sharon, has never hidden its support for the PLO.

No resolutions were drafted at last night's meeting. A petition was circulated calling for Prime Minister Shamir to fire Defense Minister Rabin or to resign himself. The petition has been circulated among Likud members for some 3 weeks now and reportedly has not attracted many signatories.

Alignment Contends Government's Days 'Numbered'

TA1210080089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Report by Dov Gilhar]

[Excerpts] The government's days are numbered. The inevitable confrontation that will bring the unity government to an end is very close. Last night, this was the assessment of all the Alignment ministers, with the exception of Defense Minister Rabin, who was absent from the meeting. A decision to immediately quit the government was not made last night in the ministers meeting. It seems, however, that a Labor ministers' decision to break up the unity government is very near.

The Alignment ministers decided to give the Likud one last chance to exhaust the U.S. initiative, if one does exist. Despite giving this chance, the Alignment ministers believe that the decision is expected to be made within 2 to 5 weeks. [passage omitted]

Already last night, the Alignment ministers discussed future alternatives to the unity government. Shim'on Peres asked the ministers not to make public statements against the possibility of a narrow-based government with the religious parties, because he believes that this option would be preferable to joining a Likud government.

Beilin Wants New Democratic Party Established

TA1110130989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Oct 89 p 19

[Commentary by Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin: "A New Party Must Be Established"]

[Text] In 1984, Yahad—under 'Ezer Weizman—and the religious parties—headed by the National Religious Party [NRP]—led the move toward a national unity government by announcing that they would refuse to set up a coalition with only one of the major parties. The great rivals, the Likud and the Alignment, set up the unprecedented structure of an enormous rotational government. The Alignment—the Labor Party and MAPAM [United Workers Party]—then disbanded.

The national unity government surprised even its opponents in securing two important achievements: Withdrawing the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Lebanon, and rescuing Israel from economic disaster. Since 1986, however, it has become an inefficient and complex body, suffering from internal disputes and frustrated by mutual veto powers. It has become bogged down in the intifadah and the economic stalemate, and it is viewed with mockery by our friends around the world.

In 1988 all the parties gave a deep sigh of relief and said, "thank God we are rid of this punishment." The elections, which continued the deadlock, at least enabled the Alignment to set up a coalition government with the left-wing and religious parties. But the same old songs in Israel's political system were heard once again, and the desire for comfort, as well as inertia, had the upper hand. The unity government remained in power.

The Inner Cabinet vote that rejected President Mubarak's invitation to convene talks between Israeli and Palestinian delegations again proved that the Likud would oppose not only a political solution, but also any political process, since they know that such a process cannot be completed without yielding territories.

In view of the Inner Cabinet decision, the Labor Party will no longer be able to remain in partnership with the Likud. This is the time to institute the change that the Israeli political map has demanded for years: the establishment of an Israeli democratic party—a party which would serve as a home base for all the parties which believe in the vital need for peace, are ready to give up territories, and believe in equal social, educational, and economic opportunities. It must be a party which desires civil rights, privatization of the means of state-run production, freeing the money market from too much government involvement, and freeing the individual from the bureaucratic "big brother." The party will also have to act to bridge social gaps through correct taxation; assuring the basic well-being of the individual in vital fields such as health, education, and pension rights on a universal basis; recognize the importance of workers organizing; and determine priorities on which to concentrate the national effort.

The democratic party will be open to parties on the right and left of the Labor Party, the religious camp, and the Arab sector. The separate existence of all its components, including the Labor Party, will of course end with its establishment. It will immediately become a large bloc in the Knesset, and its existence will foil any temptation to set up a national paralysis government. The Israeli public's real dilemma will not be between MAPAM and the Citizens Rights Movement, or between the Center-Shinuy Party and the Labor Party, but between peace in exchange for territories or a political and security retreat, and between a just society or a conservative society which widens the existing gaps.

Beilin Says U.S. Proposal Could Ease Crisis

TA1110142389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Despite earlier statements to the contrary, Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin said today the American initiative could help Israel avoid a coalition crisis. Beilin was speaking in Jerusalem to reporters covering the territories. At the news conference was reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] [Berger] Earlier this week, Yosi Beilin said any U.S. proposal unacceptable to Egypt and the Palestinians would only placate the Likud, and would constitute gross interference in Israel's internal affairs. The Prime Minister's Office reacted angrily, saying this is the gravest statement ever made against the national unity government by one of its members. Today Beilin changed his tune, saying the U.S. proposal could determine the future of the coalition.

[Beilin] It depends very much on the new U.S. initiative. If it is a beginning of a new process, a realistic process, I believe we should stay in the government, work in order to implement the ideas, and launch negotiations between us and the Palestinians. If, eventually, it would not become a new process, I believe that this government will not be able to work together in the future.

[Berger] Beilin went on to say that he has continued to hold meetings with Palestinians, including Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah.

[Beilin] Without referring to details, my general reactions were that they support the new Mubarak initiative, and the idea that a meeting between a Palestinian delegation and an Israeli one in Cairo would be a very fruitful one.

[Berger] Beilin said he believes the best solution to the Palestinian problem would be a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. He said Jordanian involvement is essential to the future of a stable peace in the region. [end recording]

Shamir Letter Demands Beilin's Resignation

TA1210054189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has sent a letter to Vice Premier Peres demanding the resignation of Yosi Beilin, the deputy finance minister. Shamir cited the article in THE JERUSALEM POST in which Beilin condemned the American initiative.

Peres is refusing to fire his deputy and has called on Labor ministers to stand by Beilin. The head of Labor's Knesset caucus, Hayim Ramon, says Shamir's demand is ridiculous because, lately, the prime minister has been acting more like the head of a party than of a government.

Detention of 500 Leaders Will Not Solve Problem

TA1010203089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] More than 40,000 residents of the territories have been held in detention facilities since the outbreak of the intifadah. Over 15,000 were wounded, and more than 500 were killed. This is the defense minister's assessment.

According to him, the intifadah is a popular uprising in the territories with a hard core of some 8,000 persons and very massive popular support. That is why whoever maintains that the problem could be solved by detaining 500 leaders does not know what he is talking about.

Mr Rabin again called for a dialogue with a representation of territory residents whose leaders are heading the Palestinian struggle for the first time. Their leaders are aware of, and will answer for, the suffering of the many. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reported excerpts of Defense Minister Rabin's address to the meeting of the Haifa Hare'ali High School graduates.

Report Says Ofeq-2 Satellite Fell From Orbit

TA1110143389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by Eliyahu Zehavi]

[Excerpts] Copenhagen—According to an internal report by NATO intelligence, Israel's spy satellite Ofeq-2 fell back to earth and burned out. Israel is currently considered a member of the "12 countries" club, which manufacture or are partners in the manufacture of spy satellites and launch them into space. [passage omitted]

Following Israel's success in launching Ofeq-1 and Ofeq-2, Iraq invested international efforts in purchasing a spy satellite "at any price," according to NATO intelligence.

In January 1989, Iraq tried to participate in a Brazilian-Chinese project to build a spy satellite. Later, a Brazilian plant offered Iraq participation in the manufacture of a satellite called "SCD-1" [name as published], which weighs 150 kg and will be equipped with a French-made infrared camera. The satellite will orbit the earth at an altitude of 700 km. In May-June, Iraqi experts went to Brazil and France to study the proposal. The price Iraq was asked to pay for its participation in the satellite project is unclear. It is also not known whether Iraq and Brazil signed an agreement and what the life span of the satellite would be.

King Addresses Conference on Protecting Future

JN1010224689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Speech by King Husayn at the opening session of "the regional conference on safeguarding the future," organized by Nur al-Husayn Foundation and the United Nations Population Fund, in Amman on 2 October—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Ladies and Gentlemen, heads of delegations, members of delegations, esteemed audience: I extend my best greetings to you. Queen Nur and I welcome you and your preparatory conference in Amman. The Jordanian family and I are pleased to be holding this conference in our capital, which has hosted similar conferences on the same subject before. This gives us a chance to participate in the dialogue and discussions, and places before us all an extremely important issue for developing countries.

I would like to stress here the major role played by the United Nations Population Fund as we are about to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its founding. This is an opportunity for me and my country to express our profound appreciation for what the Fund has accomplished so far and for the sublime objectives it seeks to achieve. Therefore, our welcoming your conference in our country is an acknowledgement of the importance we attach to its continuous efforts and an expression of our realization of the difficulty of separating development from man, considering him the means and end of development.

Heads and members of delegations, the convocation of this preparatory regional conference aims, among other things, to prepare the way for an international conference on the three basic issues of population, women, and the environment. I am confident that our success in studying all that is related to these issues from a realistic, flexible perspective can lay down one of the foundations of development, which is the dream of nations. The earth on which we live has witnessed, and continues to witness, changes in these areas which are of an almost explosive or revolutionary nature. Balances have been upset on more than one level, and the gap between the developed and developing countries is widening in the same way that it is widening between resources and population.

The imbalance between nature and man is also increasing, which affects developing countries' aspirations for development and has further upset relations between the developed countries and those seeking to escape their backwardness. This imbalance also has presented mankind with a common challenge, that is, to deal with the threat to the world environment. I do not think the international organizations, including the United Nations Population Fund, are facing a more difficult task than that of performing their duty with regard to this imbalance.

He who imagines that catastrophes resulting from the difficulty of establishing a balance in the equation of resources and population only afflict the developing countries is mistaken. What we see now is that these countries are witnessing an increase in population much greater than that in resources, whereas, in the developed countries, we see a completely different picture for in line with the successive increase in their resources there is a noticeable decrease in the population. The imblanace here is met by an imbalance there, but of different type. Although our capabilities as individuals or individual states are limited, we can be strong enough to control the growth of the human race and retain a balance relative to our resources so that we can preserve the environment in which we live and achieve the desired development. Poverty, sickness, hunger, desertification, shrinkage of arable lands, water shortages, tension, wars, and others problems are problems and dangers directly linked to the question of population. They are insoluble and their effects cannot be checked through individual efforts, but through regional and international cooperation and coordination.

You are undoubtedly aware that the population explosion, accompanied by fixed or decreasing resources, has led to an internal exodus from the villages, which lost their productive labor, to the cities, which became overcrowded with people who gained little from their exodus. Unemployment arose, whether in its disguised or familiar form. Such an exodus made it difficult for many countries to discover the fixed rules and guidelines for planning and subsequent development. This led to real confusion in the economic, social, and psychological conditions of most developing countries. Unless awareness of the importance of family planning and increased production is deepened, the problem will inevitably get worse.

I am certain your conference is aware of the importance and seriousness of another issue, which is the close link between peace and development. It is impossible for many countries to achieve their demographic objectives and better living conditions, to reduce mortality rates, devote their resources to social, development and economic programs in the fields of education, health, housing, improvement of the environment, extraction of natural resources, and other areas as long as they have to cover the expenses of military and armament programs to defend themselves against the dangers of wars and the ambitions of expansionists. Therefore, shifting the huge amounts of money spent on armaments toward development programs would improve mankind's life and safeguard its present and future.

As for the role of women, which is the second issue to be discussed by your imminent international conference, I do not need to reaffirm that women are still an untapped source of energy in developing countries. It is a pity that

at a time when societies are looking for every hand to build, for every effort to participate, and for every energy to push away from backwardness into progress, from consumption into production, women are facing new forms of siege and social and non-social pressures, and find extreme difficulty in performing their familial and social duties. I believe it is a task that should be tackled by the fund, and be supported by all bodies and establishments concerned about man's dignity and happiness, to release women's energies and give them the full opportunity to take part in the process of production. This is an important and essential factor in expediting the process of development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are approaching the 21st century with much anxiety and fear. When we look back and recall what our world has witnessed during this nearly departing century, we feel that the many world and regional wars have been an expression of the conflict between interests and ambitions. It has been an extremely costly conflict. Nevertheless, what we are currently witnessing is completely different. The entire human community is now facing a different type of war that does not merely threaten certain parts of our world, or would result in the victory of one side and the defeat of the other. It is a war that would exterminate everyone. It is being waged against the human community on and above the globe. It is hard to imagine that man will be victorious in it unless matters are rectified. Environmental pollution on the one hand, and the effects of this pollution on the ozone layer which protects us on the other, will place every living thing on our planet between the jaws of death. It is sad that while the majority of the human community is engrossed in finding its daily bread, medicines, textbooks, and an escape from the triangle of backwardness—poverty, illness, and ignorance—it pays no attention to the common threat. Environmental pollution is the third world war in which man can achieve no victory despite all his missiles, bombs, and arsenals. Such a serious issue requires a collective and special effort by us all. Highlighting this issue in the research papers of the international conference of the United Nations Population Fund is a very significant sign.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Jordan, whose capital city is hosting your important conference, has an experience that is worthy of being considered. Our experience has revolved around a major challenge, which was how to achieve development under an unfavorable equation of revenues and population. Hence our focus was on education and training, through which we sought to achieve two objectives:

First: Education will enhance national awareness of the importance of family planning.

Second: Through education and training, we we can raise productivity in various fields.

I would like to underline the most prominent features of our experience in light of these two things:

Work and education are constitutional rights granted equally to both men and women.

Illiteracy has decreased in Jordan to levels much lower than those in other developing countries and stands now at 28 percent.

As a result of the efforts in the medical field, the mortality rate, especially among infants, has decreased to approximately 60 per 1,000. And this is considered a very great achievement. The average life expectancy of the Jordanian citizen has increased during the last 3 decades and now stands at around 65 years.

These achievements in the fields of education, health, and family planning were not confined to the public sector; the private sector has played a major role and has complemented the role of the public sector in these fields. The role of the Nur al-Husayn Foundation is an example of this. Here, I would like to highlight the projects executed by this foundation in the field of training and providing job opportunities to women in the rural areas, in addition to other voluntary foundations which are active in the field of sponsoring the handicapped and rehabilitating those who are capable, and in the field of medical care of mothers and children.

The success of the the Nur al-Husayn Foundation and other similar foundations has been reflected in large sectors of society, whether in the field of training and rehabilitation or in the field of decent job opportunities with a good income, moving women from consumers to real producers for the family and society.

People are the most precious resource we have. We have always worked by this precept. We mean qualified, trained, producing, and healthy people. This policy has achieved a level of development and progress of which we are proud. Despite this, the gains of development on the level of the individual and family are still below the expected standard because of the obstacles to the programs of family planning. It is time everybody realized that the qualitative development of people cannot be achieved within the framework of the requirements of a large, poor family. I would like to note here that my country has given women special attention, seeing in them a creative force able to work and produce, out of our concern to obstruct any attempt to make our society breathe by one lung, work with one hand, or produce with one half of its forces. In this field, we have passed many legislative acts to achieve this objective, particularly to give women a chance to participate in the parliamentary elections, both as candidates and voters. This, we think, is the highest degree of appreciation for the women and their role in life.

Ladies and gentlemen: When people began to warn against the dangers of environmental pollution and the consequences of these dangers, I personally, and my country, were aware of these dangers and endeavored to take a position in any international effort to surround this pollution, minimize it, and stop it. We, in Jordan,

are exerting a special effort to protect our local environment and are taking part in any international work to prevent the environmental problem from launching its destructive war against our planet and our human community. When some countries called for confronting this problem in a collective way, Jordan had the honor to respond to this call when I personally signed, on behalf of my country, the Hague declaration for protecting the environment on 11 March last year.

Ladies and gentlemen: I would like, at the end of my speech, to thank the UN Population Fund for its distinguished role and great services in Jordan as well in other developing countries. I would like to note here many projects which the UN Population Fund has carried out in cooperation with the Jordanian Government, the University of Jordan, and the al-Yarmuk University, as well as the projects to which it contributed with the voluntary sector, particularly the pioneer project it carried out with the Nur al-Husayn Foundation and its support for the society for protecting and organizing the Jordanian family.

Once again, Queen Nur and I welcome you and thank you for giving my country the opportunity to host your conference, wishing you success and continuous giving. God bless you. God's peace, mercy, and blessinge be upon you.

Prince Hasan Calls for 'Responsible Dialogue'

JN1110211989 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, said today: The resumption of the parliamentary life in Jordan is a step toward constructing comprehensive institutional life in Jordan. He said: Dialogue through institutions prevents mistakes. His royal highness was speaking at the ceremony held at the Palace of Culture on the Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

He recalled that freedom seekers had always found a refuge in Jordan. His royal highness went on to say that constructive pluralism is a source of strength, adding that the relationship between the authorities and the citizens should be based on truth, honesty, and mutual confidence. He said: Responsible dialogue is the common channel between the two sides.

Finance Minister Discusses Loans, 1990 Budget

JN1010081089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 89 p 1

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has secured concessionary long-term foreign loans from the World Bank and the Japanese and West German governments totalling $317 million to help the Kingdom in its balance of payments, Finance Minister Basil Jardanah said Monday.

The World Bank will provide $150 million, the Japanese government will extend an equal amount and the West German government will offer the remaining $17 million, said Jardanah, who returned home last week after talks with World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials in Washington. The loans will be repayable over 15 years with a seven-year grace period at "reasonable interest rates," he said.

Jardanah, in an informal question-and-answer session with local and foreign journalists, also revealed that the government had made progress "in real terms" in curbing expenditure and that the deficit in the 1990 fiscal budget, which will be unveiled before the end of November, would be 16.5 per cent of the gross domestic product compared with 20.2 per cent this year and 24 per cent in 1988. These figures exclude Arab grants to Jordan.

Among the measures envisaged in the 1990 budget, the minister said, are:

—A "reformed income tax structure" which aims at a revenue of JD 95 million compared with JD 55 million in 1989. Jardanah stressed that the "reformed structure will benefit the poor."

—A "generalised consumer tax" will be introduced at the production and customs points. The minister did not give any figures, but explained that value added tax was not feasible in Jordan at this point in time because of the difficulties involved in monitoring it.

—The ban on imports of many luxury items and automobiles imposed since November last year will be lifted as committed by the previous government, but higher customs tariffs would be introduced on such imports. "We are in favour of financial measures rather than administrative measures to curb imports," Jardanah said. The expected outflow of foreign currency for these imports in 1989 after the ban is lifted will not be more than $75 million, according to the minister.

—A "substantial allocation" will be made for basic food subsidies. The minister declined to give figures, but a figure of JD 60 million is mentioned by economists. Jardanah said while the government will continue to extend its indirect subsidies to the civil consumer corporations, it will also take 50 per cent of the profits of these establishments.

On other issues, the minister said:

—Jordan's exports have grown in the first half of this year to cover 51 per cent of its imports for the same period compared with 37 per cent in the first half of last year. Imports for the same period in 1989 went down by 17 per cent, he added.

The minister said he expected Jordan's exports to reach $1.2 billion this year, with phosphates, potash, fertilisers and aluminium flouride accounting $620 million and

agricultural products, pharmaceuticals and other consumer goods making up the rest.

"I am very very much satisfied with our financial relations with Iraq," he said in answer to a question on Iraqi repayment of its debts to Jordan.

—With the scheduled $317 million loan, and "modest Arab aid, even assuming the lowest, my judgement today is that the CBJ will have enough foreign reserves to intervene in the market when needed, and stabilise the rate of the Jordanian dinar... at more or less the current level, which is 690 fils to 625 fils to the dollar."

Discussing Jordan's external debts, the minister said he does not think the kingdom "will need any more rescheduling" of its debt repayments after implementing the five year "readjustment programme" agreed with the IMF earlier this year. "I hope we won't have a debt hangover and will be able to repay our loans normally," he said.

Cost of living in Jordan, according to the minister, has registered an increase of only 13 per cent in the first seven months of this year when based on the income and spending habits of an average citizen earning JD 120 a month. "For me the cost of living has gone up by 50 per cent," he said, but "we are talking about a basket of consumption (of the average citizen who) spends two thirds of his income on housing, transportation and food. A look at the main items (in these three areas) there has not been any increase."

"But, if you are talking about someone whose monthly income is JD 1,000, then the cost of living is much more," he clarified. The minister expected a "very substantial increase in government revenues next year."

He did not disclose figures but said "it will be something shocking. When you see it (in the budget) you will believe it cannot be achieved, but I assure you it will be achieved."

Among the envisaged measures is a reform in income tax. "There will be a reform to the income tax system," he said. "People with low income or middle income will get more benefit. Those who can afford to pay will have to pay a little bit more. Some institutions, like say banks, will have to pay a minimum tax..."

At present, the corporate tax is 33 per cent and banks pay 55 per cent, but "they have so many exemptions they end up paying 15 per cent," the minister said. "Now they will have to pay a little more," he said.

"Let me assure you, those who cannot afford to pay more will benefit," he declared. "I shall be accountable for it."

FRC Denies PLO Link in Red Cross Kidnappings

NC1110182189 Paris AFP in English 1748 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] Wednesday denied that it was negotiating with the PLO on the release of two Red Cross workers kidnapped in Lebanon and again said it had nothing to do with the abduction.

The FRC, a radical Palestinian group that has denounced Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, condemned the seizure last Friday in southern Lebanon of Emmanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"No party has contacted us concerning this matter," the FRC said in a statement distributed to the press here, "and we reiterate the absence of any links between our organization and these kidnappings."

A reliable Palestinian source, interviewed in Paris on Tuesday, insisted that the FRC was responsible for the abductions and that the PLO had been in contact with the group to urge the release of the two men, both Swiss nationals.

No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnappings, and the FRC four days ago denied any involvement.

Hizballah on Arrest of Shiite Leader in Kuwait

NC1210072689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Hizballah has announced that Kuwaiti authorities have arrested Shiite scholar Muhammad Baqir al-Mahdi in order to preempt any moves by the Muslim masses in Kuwait in response to the execution of Kuwaiti pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. A Hizballah statement that was delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut said that Kuwait was involved in killing the 16 Shiites which Saudi Arabia executed for carrying out bombings in Mecca during the hajj season.

'Awn Ready for Dialogue With 'Everyone'

NC1210083089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has emphasized his readiness to hold a dialogue with everyone. However, he said: We are not prepared to bargain with anyone, whoever he may be, over our sovereignty and our people's right to freedom. The U.S. Administration must support the forces of right and not the right of force.

In an interview with the New Italian Agency [al-Wakalah al-Italiyah al-Jadidah], Gen 'Awn said: If I had a choice, I would opt for liberation a second and a third time. The war has unveiled the plot as it really is, exposed the roles of all those involved in it, and revealed who is foe and who is friend.

Gen 'Awn said: We are not protected by anyone and we will not be a protectorate to anyone; we are neither tools nor agents for anyone. This is the first time in our history that Lebanon is depending on itself and standing on its own two feet.

'Official Source' Comments on Al-Ta'if Talks

JN1110173589 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Beirut, Oct 11, INA—Lebanon has re-demanded the necessity of the immediate Syria pull-out from the Lebanese territory.

In an official statement to an INA correspondent in Beirut today, a Lebanese official source stressed that the Syrian regime was blocking al-Ta'if talks of the Lebanese MP's [members of parliament] through threat messages and influence to the aim of blasting any possible accord to seek a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The source had told Paris-based radio of East that the Syrian troops should get out of Lebanon after 14 years of occupying the territory and disrupting the Lebanese.

The source added that the Syrian regime's massacres in Lebanon confirmed its subversive part in perpetrating a multi-goal conspiracy.

Birri Demands Rotation in Top Positions

NC1110175089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has said: If the Maronite politicians refuse to make any concessions over the powers of the president and fail to set a deadline for the end of sectarian privileges, our position would be to ask for the current system to continue, but for top posts to be filled in rotation.

Birri added: If the proposals made by deputy Zahir al-Khatib on behalf of the nationalist front are not accepted, we prefer to retain the current Constitution except for one amendment abolishing clause 95 and all norms and laws based on it.

Birri said: The Arab plan for a solution has been attractive to some because it is built on a sectarian basis. Birri voiced his opposition to any security flare-up, saying: We will resist anyone who dreams of returning to the situation that existed before the recent cease-fire. The fighting which took place and the shelling which Michel 'Awn started is not in anyone's interest. It has achieved little more than liberating homes from their occupants.

MiG Incident Blamed on 'Technical Failure'

JN1110133489 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1306 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] An official Syrian spokesman said this afternoon that a Syrian Air Force MiG-23 aircraft was forced to land at an Israeli military airport due to a technical failure. REUTER cited the Syrian official as saying that Syria has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to work for the immediate return of the pilot.

Israeli radio had earlier announced that the plane landed in Israel and that the Israeli forces captured the Syrian pilot.

Mauritanian Minister Arrives With Message

JN1010215889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Ahmed Ould Jiddou, Mauritanian minister of mines and industry, arrived in Damascus tonight, beginning a several-day visit to Syria. Industry Minister Antoine Jubran, the Mauritanian ambassador to Damascus, and the director of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Foreign Ministry received him at the airport.

In a statement to SANA, Jiddou said: I am carrying a message from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He added that the distinguished relations linking our two sisterly countries render it natural for its leaders to exchange messages and hold meetings whenever there is a chance to do so in order to exchange ideas on all issues and on the current Arab situation.

GDR's Honecker Receives Syrian Official 6 Oct

JN0710143289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Text] Berlin—GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker yesterday received Comrade 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and president of the General Federation of Trade Unions. This meeting took place during the reception Honecker hosted for the delegations participating in the celebrations on the 40th anniversary of the GDR. Comrades Honecker and Nasir exchanged cordial words dealing with bilateral relations. They emphasized the need to promote these relations.

Comrade Nasir arrived in Berlin last Thursday at the head of a party and state delegation to participate in the celebrations on the 40th anniversary of the GDR.

Lebanese, Arabs Urged Not To Appease 'Awn

JN0810084889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Those Escaping From Deadlines," the AL-BA'TH editorial says: It seems that the efforts to bring a solution to the Lebanese crisis are right now going through sharp ups and downs despite the fact that the conviction prevails that this solution will eventually emerge in al-Ta'if. All deputies without exception have reaffirmed that they all agree that failure is not allowed and that there will be no return to Beirut before a solution is found. Besides, the higher tripartite committee and the foreign ministers of the countries making up that committee have reiterated their determination to come up with a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Moreover, Arab and international efforts are continuing to render the deputies' meetings in al-Ta'if a success.

AL-BA'TH wonders: Who, then, are obstructing the peace efforts and prolonging the crisis? The paper says: Those who prevented the deputies from reaching the premises of the Chamber of Deputies through the use of arms, terrorized deputies and others who dared to voice different opinions, and eventually usurped power to create division through the liquidation and destruction of the legitimate Lebanese institutions—those very people are making an appearance once again, rearing their grudge-bearing heads to obstruct the al-Ta'if meetings and plant explosives and mines in the way of these meetings.

AL-BA'TH adds: The hatred that they are harboring against the nationalist influence and status in Lebanon have caused them to forget the pains and agonies of the Lebanese. This hatred has also made them forget the appeals made by the non-Lebanese everywhere in this world regarding the need to come up with a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Seeing Lebanon walking the path conducive to a solution, normalcy, and salvation has actually become a cause of concern to them. That is why they have begun to obstruct and dash the efforts being made to achieve a solution every time they see the prospects for the emergence of this solution bolstered. This has always been their custom. Manifestations of this custom are currently in full play in al-Ta'if.

Under the headline "The Basis of the Solution and the Responsibility for Salvation," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Israeli influence poses threats to Lebanon. This is not only confirmed by the facts and developments emerging through the years of the Lebanese crisis. No, this indisputable fact makes the emergence of this threat something unavoidable as long as there is a commitment to Arab affiliation in this country. The dimensions of this premise are also made clearer by the nature of the conflict of existence between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Those who feel sincerely toward Lebanon, toward its Arabism, and toward its unity have realized that the solution cannot materialize through infighting and through the military means that have wreaked havoc in Lebanon. They have come to the conclusion that this solution is possible through dialogue and reconciliation, and also through identifying the firm foundations on which the future Lebanon is to be built. These are the same bases outlined by the Casablanca

summit resolution. Through intensive contacts, the tripartite committee has also become aware of these bases. Hence, the first article of the reconciliation document stressed that Lebanon is a free and sovereign state, of Arab identity and affiliation, and that political reforms are required to achieve justice and equality among all the Lebanese, irrespective of their sectarian affiliations and social status. This is the reform designed to abolish the system of factional privileges that ignited the war and opened the door wide for Israel to intervene in Lebanese affairs in accordance with its hegemonic and partition-seeking scheme.

In the "Behind the News" column and under the headline "'Awn is an Obstacle Preventing the Solution and the Reconciliation," the newspaper TISHRIN says: All parties are aware of how afraid the East Beirut deputies are of 'Awn's threats should they overlook his instructions and join the other deputies who constitute the majority in the process designed to redeem Lebanon and achieve national reconciliation there. However, what is also clear is that Lebanon's salvation cannot be accomplished by placating or appeasing 'Awn, who is an obstacle preventing the emergence of national reconciliation. Besides, 'Awn is also obstructing the restoration of normalcy in Lebanon and preventing this country from recuperating. Eventually, any attempt to involve him in the solution will only obstruct peace efforts and result in the failure to attain a solution.

TISHRIN adds: It goes without saying that those participating in the al-Ta'if meetings are called upon to voice their stands honestly and courageously and to free themselves of 'Awn's hegemony and threats if they really seek to save Lebanon. Likewise, the Arabs are called upon to adhere to the reconciliation document and to the priorities contained in this document. They are asked not to succumb to 'Awn's blackmail, as submission will only pull down the accomplishments scored on the path leading to a solution.

'Qualitative' Operations Against Israel Urged

JN0810191689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Palestine broadcast: From the "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Brother militants: More than 22 years have passed since UN Security Council Resolution No 242 was issued, and 16 years have passed since the UN Security Council Resolution No 338 of 1973 was issued after the October war.

During these long years, the international organization tried its luck, and then U.S diplomacy entered with the Rogers initiative.

However, Israel did not withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, did not recognize the rights of the people of Palestine, did not stop settlement activities, and did not refrain from practicing savage oppression and violating, every day, the Geneva Convention pertaining to human rights under occupation.

Instead of accepting the will of the international community and turning toward peace, Israel continued to carry out its aggressions. It invaded Lebanon more than once. It still occupies part of the Lebanese territories and refuses to implement the UN Security Council resolution which calls for its withdrawal from Lebanon's territories. Thus, it did not retreat even one iota from the policy of aggression and expansion.

In view of the continuation of this situation, Arabs have no option but to face aggression by using all forms of resistance and to retaliate against the enemy's crimes against our people in the occupied homeland with qualitative Palestinian commando operations which will bridle the enemy's arrogance and force it to remember that its crimes against our people can never go unpunished; that the hand of the revolutionaries of Palestine is capable of slapping it and inflicting the greatest damage to it; and that no Zionist can have peace as long as our Palestinian Arab people are deprived of security, peace, and freedom.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Reiterates Proposal for Talks

LD1210090089 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 12 Oct 89

["President Najibullah's Message on Prophet Muhammad Birthday"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 1, BAKHTAR—"With a sense of Islamic and Afghanic responsibility I once again propose that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is prepared to talk with the opposition in the capital of any Islamic country without any pre-requisite or pre-conditions for seeking ways of peaceful solution of the situation in Afghanistan", emphasizes a message of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, released here today, congratulating the Afghan Muslims and Muslims of the world on the occasion of the brithday of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.

We also refer to the governments of the Islamic countries, adds the message, to assess and study our proposals and to take part in the process of securing peace in Afghanistan. If any Islamic country accept to act as a mediatory in holding talks between the authorities of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the armed opposition forces, the former is quite prepared, to take on its part, the required measures in this connection.

President Najibullah stresses in its message that our real motive in all our peaceful proposals is to secure peace and to save the lives of our Afghan and Muslim brothers.

Recalling the international forum of Islamic countries held last year in Kabul on the same occasion, President Najibullah pointed out that since then new political developments have occurred inside and outside the country in connection with the issues in Afghanistan. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan last year on the same occasion welcomed the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad with the announcement of ceasefire. The Soviet forces fully returned to their homeland. Proper measures were taken for the decent return of our countrymen from abroad.

The Republic of Afghanistan, the message goes on tc say, also presented new proposals aimed at putting an end to fratricidal war and attaining peace at national and international levels. Contact between the state authorities and the opposition groups were established on different levels. Realising the futility of war, a number of local commanders of the opposition armed forces gave up fratricidal war and joined the policy of national reconciliation. The Republic of Afghanistan proposed to hold meeting with the representatives of the opposition in Mecca.

However, the bellicose extremists rejected all these peaceful proposals and with the complete return of the Soviet detachments from Afghanistan intensified fratricidal wars and along with foreign mercenaries launched extensive aggressions against the provinces of Nangarhar, Qandahar and Khowst Grand District of Paktia Province as well as against highways and other parts of the country, the message adds.

Let us see what the enemy's stubborness since last birthday of Prophet Muhammad has given to the people of Afghanistan. In a nutshell, they have killed 3,134 Afghan citizens, injured 7,301 others and have destroyed 50 mosques and shrines and have set to mourning almost every Afghan family.

It is reiterated in President Najibullah's message once against that all peaceful proposals earlier set forth by the Republic of Afghanistan including the establishment of a broad-based coalition government with the participation of the representatives of the political forces, refugees and all tribes and nationalities are still in its forces.

Report on Future USSR-Mujahidin Talks Assessed

BK1110045189 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 11 Oct 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] There has been a varied reaction in New York to recent comments made there by a Pakistan senior minister, Mrs Nusrat Bhutto, that the Soviet Union was now prepared to talk to the Afghan mujahidin. Some diplomats have denied the statement, while others have refused to comment. There has been no official reaction in Pakistan itself, from where Lyce Ducet reports.

[Begin Lyce Ducet recording] In one instance, the statement is hardly new. Soviet diplomats in Kabul have frequently said they are ready to resume political talks with the mujahidin. But Mrs Bhutto's comments do not specify whether the Russians have said they would accept a delegation from the guerrilla's interim government or simply their political parties. Soviet sources said earlier this year they were reluctant to give the interim government the recognition implied in any such talk. But mujahidin sources here say they would only participate as a government. It would bolster their efforts to gain greater international recognition as a credible political force. But guerrilla sources also expressed weariness about Soviet objectives. They say they did not expect Moscow to continue its heavy military involvement after the February troop withdrawal.

They also point out that during the last political discussions in December and January, Russian diplomats insisted that President Najibullah and his party, the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan], should be included in any political settlement. The guerrillas and their main backers—Pakistan and the United States—still reject any role for President Najibullah. The Soviet position is not completely clear. But Soviet sources point out that if President Najibullah simply steps down, there will be an unacceptable political void and possible instability since there is still no credible alternatives to him.

The Russians appear to want talks aimed at finding a mechanism to ensure peaceful transition to a new order. Individuals may, in the long run, be dispensable. But the Russians still say they want some role for the PDPA and at the least its participation in any national election.

Given the present political deadlock, talks between the Soviet Union and the mujahidin may be the least difficult way out of the current impasse. Guerrilla sources say Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, one of the mujahidin's political leaders, proposed at a recent conference in Tehran that there should be a meeting between the Russians and the interim government with Iran and Pakistan as observers. Since President Najibullah has so far proved his staying power and the Soviet Union has made clear it will provide as many arms as the Afghan Government needs, all parties to the conflict may accept that if there is to be a political settlement, the Soviet Union has to be involved. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry's Note on Kabul Missile Attack

LD1110190989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] In completely ignoring the provisions of the Geneva accords particularly Paragraphs 8, 11, and 12 of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accord which seriously warns parties to the accords about the training, financing, arming, and equipping of men and political groups, the Pakistani military authorities are shamelessly continuing to deliver various modern weapons particularly surface-to-surface missiles, to the opposition parties so that the fire of war and bloodshed is being further fanned up in our country.

The extremist groups—these servants of rupees and dollars—in making use of all-around assistance by the Pakistani and U.S. militarists, do not hesitate to commit any inhumane and criminal actions against our innocent people.

The extremist opposition groups—these false supporters of Islam—fired a surface-to-surface missile at a crowded area of Kabul yesterday without the slightest warning or respect to Afghan traditions and the religious beliefs of our people on the eve of the prophet's birth anniversary, peace be upon him. They have committed another unforgiveable crime against the tired and war- stricken people of our country and caused a large number of our innocent families to mourn the loss of their beloved ones.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry, in a note addressed to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan], this afternoon drew the UN Mission's attention to this tragic episode, which is the direct result of mass delivery of various weapons to the extremist groups by Pakistan and the United States. The note seriously asked UNGOMAP to investigate this criminal action, which is contrary to all norms of human rights and standards of international law and to inform the Afghan side and the UN secretary general about the result of the investigation.

According to another report, the UNGOMAP assessment team, accompanied by a Foreign Ministry representative, inspected the place hit by the extremists' missile, the Temurshahi bustop, as well as visited those injured in this mishap in Jamhuriat Hospital. In talking with eyewitness, the UN team carried out their assessments.

New Panel Denounces 'Foreign Interference'

BK1110102089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0948 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 11 (AFP)—A group of leading local figures—including former government members under deposed King Zahir Shah—have formed a body to seek a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, press reports here said.

The 15-member National Salvation Society, in a statement published in the official Afghan press, also denounced foreign interference in Afghanistan.

The group's members, describing themselves as "neutral (and) and liberal thinking," called for the "establishment of a state system based on the principles of the sacred religion of Islam, national history and culture." But they said they had had no contact with deposed King Zahir Shah, who has been living in exile in Rome since he was ousted in 1973 after 40 years in power.

Muhammad Asghar and Muhammad Aman, respectively the former ministers of justice and finance under Zahir Shah, were chosen president and vice-president of the group.

The former king is viewed by many Afghans as the only figure able to unite Afghanistan's warring factions under a single government.

The group said it would "commence our activity through our contacts with all the warring Afghan warring parties...to create an atmosphere conducive to negotiations." It blamed the country's 10 years of bloodshed on "the fact that alien powers have changed our free country into...a theater of international confrontation in order to expand their political sway and economic influence."

The panel said its members favored neither the policies of the pro-Soviet Kabul government, nor the U.S.- and Pakistani-backed mujahidin seeking to topple it.

The statement noted that bloodshed and the refugee exodus were continuing, and that shortages of essential goods and spiralling inflation had "subjected our national economy to bankruptcy."

Although formed on September 30, the panel did not release its position until this week because it had to

negotiate the terms of its publication with the Najibullah government, sources close to the group said.

The statement was published uncensored in the Farsi-language ANIS, the HEWAD, in Pashtu, and the English-language KABUL TIMES—which state-run television said demonstrated the government's liberal and "peaceful" stance.

But asked about the group's reference to "foreign interference," government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said it was unfortunate that "Western propaganda" had created "the myth of Soviet occupation." He called Soviet aid and the military occupation which ended officially on February 15 "a question of cooperation between two countries."

Regime Stockpiles Arms; Food in Short Supply

BK1110093589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0810 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 11 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah's preference for stockpiling ammunition rather than food had caused shortages in Kabul rather than action by the mujahidin, Western diplomats said here. "We challenge assertions by some sources in Kabul that mujahidin action is responsible for food shortages in the city," one diplomat said.

Others said Tuesday that the main cause of shortages was a regime decision to devote the "overwhelming majority" of available transport to shipping munitions.

The regime was allocating some 80 percent of its cargo capacity to moving munitions including large supplies of weapons such as surface-to-surface Scud missiles "which serve no defensive purpose" in its war with the guerrillas, the diplomats said.

Various sources in Kabul reported that while immediate supplies of staples like wheat, and edible oil were adequate in the capital, "prices are very high suggesting that stocks are dwindling."

According to diplomats Kabul was receiving a daily average of well over 1,000 tonnes of cargo by air alone, mostly in Soviet planes, while several thousand additional tonnes arrived along the strategic Salang highway which leads to the border with the Soviet Union.

Kabul's links with the Soviet Union along the highway remained open as the mujahidin were only attacking military convoys and not food supplies, the diplomats said. But they warned the situation could deteriorate during the coming winter because of the government's decision to give greater priority to munitions.

On Tuesday the Afghan Government said Soviet transport planes landing in Kabul 16 to 20 times a day since February had been bringing mostly food and medecine, not munitions as claimed by pro-Western sources.

General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, secretary of the Supreme National Defence Council said apart from "spare parts" the planes carried "80 to 90 percent" food.

The United States, which supports the Moslem guerrillas, regularly denounces the "massive" deliveries of Soviet military equipment to Kabul, estimating the value of this aid at between $200 million to $300 million a month since the Soviet pullout in February.

BAKHTAR Reviews Military Situation

LD1010065489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 9, BAKHTAR—The armed opposition groups have fired heavy missiles on some areas of Khowst city in the past two days as a result of which one personnel of the Armed Forces was killed and another one was wounded, reports our military correspondent. The report adds in response to the extremists' attacks on Khowst city the Armed Forces stationed there resorted to counter operations as a result of which 54 extremists and their foreign patrons namely Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis retreated from the battle field. The report adds that two armoured vehicles and four trucks carrying arms and munitions of the enemy were destroyed in Khowst as well.

According to another report the armed forces based in Nangarhar Province carried out mopping up operations in Sheykh Mestri area as a result of which a number of munitions were seized by the personnel of the Armed Forces. The report adds that the armed extremists fired heavy missiles on security posts in Samar Kheyl, Behsud and Sorkh Rud areas, Nangarhar Province, which caused no casualty.

Thus, the Armed Forces resorted to retaliatory attacks as a result of which one hundred persons attached to the enemy retreated from the battle field. A huge number of arms and ammunition fell at the hands of the Armed Forces in the said operations as well.

Based on another report, the extremists fired rockets on residential areas and security post of Qandahar city killing two civilians.

A ten-person armed opposition group joined the process of national reconciliation in Samangan Province today. Our military correspondent reports that state officials and a large number of residents of Samangan Province welcomed the group. In a gathering held on the occasion the leader of the group, M. Afzal, on behalf of others promised to spare no efforts in ensurance of peace in their localities.

According to another report severe clashes occurred recently between Golbuddin and Rabbani groups in Balkh District, Balkh Province. The report adds that thirty nine personnel from both rival groups were killed and tens of others wounded in the said clashes.

Based on another report recently two hundred and fifteen persons have individually returned home from Iran. After receiving necessary aids to the returnees have been transferred to their ancestral villages in Herat Province.

Rebels Step Up Operations in Qandahar, Kill 30

BK1110132289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin have stepped up their military activities in Qandahar Province, inflicting heavy losses in men and material on Kabul regime troops. In a successful military operation on Qandahar airport, mujahidin destroyed a Kabul regime military complex, killing at least 30 soldiers and destroying two Army vehicles and a military jeep. They also destroyed a number of houses occupied by Kabul regime Army officers. According to MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], an ammunition dump was hit and caught fire, wiping out all the ammunition.

Meanwhile, the United States has confirmed that there are still some Soviet military advisers in Afghanistan helping Kabul regime forces. A State Department spokeswoman, Margaret Tutweiler, said the advisers are involved in rangers' activities, including firing of Scud missiles. She called for their immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Cambodia

LD0810021189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Text] Regarding the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer units from Cambodia on 14 September this year, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan said:

The people of Cambodia selflessly resisted various types of oppression and pressure of the Pol Pot regime 10 years ago, particularly during the 3 years of its rule when killing knew no limits. Over the past 10 years Vietnamese units helped the people in their struggle against foreign conspiracies and aggression. On the basis of new tendencies in international relations and new theses regarding the resolution of regional disputes and clashes and the preference of political resolutions for conflagrations and differences, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and People's Republic of Cambodia reached agreement over the withdrawal of the volunteer units return to their country.

There is complete support for the withdrawal of volunteer units of Vietnam, which is in line with the expediencies of the unofficial Jakarta talks and international conference of Paris in the Republic of Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan consider the efforts of all national and patriotic forces of Cambodia to implement the national reconciliation policy and reconstruct that country as the only appropriate resolution.

The Republic of Afghanistan believes this joint action by Cambodia and Vietnam provides good and necessary conditions for the resolution of the problem of Cambodia and the restoration of peace to that country and the removal of tension in the region. However, just as with the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, it must be mentioned that this constructive act of Cambodia and Vietnam should not be exploited in order to permit any interference or war. The Republic of Afghanistan also supports the wish of the Cambodian people to prevent the return of a bloodthirsty and genocidal regime which will cause tension in the region and bring pain and death to the of Cambodian people.

India

PRC's Wu Xueqian Arrives on Official Visit

Greeted by Narasimha Rao

BK1210014489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1826 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 11 (AFP)—China's Deputy Premier Wu Xueqian said on arrival here Wenesday [11 October] that he was hopeful of further improvement in relations with India, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Mr. Wu was greeted by External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao upon his arrival late Wednesday for week-long talks with Indian leaders, PTI said. Given the observance of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, Sino-Indian relations would, through concerted efforts of the two sides, experience further improvement and growth, PTI quoted him as saying in a brief statement.

Mr. Rao said he expected the talks between the two sides beginning Thursday to be "useful and constructive," the agency said.

Mr. Wu is the most senior Chinese official to come to India since the June 1981 visit by then Foreign Minister Huang Hua.

Further Details on Arrival

BK1210033889 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian arrived in New Delhi last night on a week-long official visit to India. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr P. Narasimha Rao, and the Chinese ambassador to India.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Wu Xueqian said he has come on a visit to India after a period of 32 years and during this period India has made significant changes

and progressed rapidly. Mr Narasimha Rao said he is hopeful of having useful and constructive talks with the Chinese vice premier.

Sees Improved Relations

BK1210090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, now on a visit to India, has expressed the hope that relations between the two countries will improve further through concerted efforts. In a statement on his arrival in New Delhi last night, Mr Wu Xueqian said mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries has grown in recent years with increasing friendly exchanges.

During his week-long stay in the country, the vice premier will hold talks with Indian leaders covering the broad spectrum of bilateral relations. He will call on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, today and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, tomorrow.

Visits Mohandas Gandhi Mausoleum

BK1210063889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0619 GMT 12 Oct 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 12 (AFP)—Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian visited the mausoleum here of Indian independence hero Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi on Thursday [12 October] on the first full day of a week-long official visit. Mr. Wu placed a wreath at the black stone mausoleum, stood silently for a few minutes and signed a book for distinguished visitors, witnesses said.

Security was tight at the Raj Ghat Mausoluem, with armed policemen and plainclothes security personnel ringing the entire area where a lone gunman tried to assassinate Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in October 1986.

Mausoleum officials presented Mr. Wu with a set of books authored by Mohandas Gandhi, revered as the "Mahatma" (great soul) for his leadership of the non-violent struggle that freed India from British colonial rule.

Mr. Wu is the senior-most Chinese official to visit India since a June 1981 trip by then Foreign Minister Huang Hua. The vice premier is due to leave for Bangkok on Wednesday.

Mr. Wu was to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues later Thursday with Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who received Mr. Wu at the airport here late Wednesday. Mr. Wu told reporters on his arrival here that he was hopeful of further improvement in relations between India and China, which fought a brief war in 1962 over a border dispute which persists.

Mr. Wu is to call on President Ramaswamy Venkataraman Thursday, attend a dinner hosted by Mr. Rao and hold talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Friday evening, before ending his stay in New Delhi with a press conference.

On Saturday, he will fly to Bangalore city in southern India, where he will visit the state-run Indian Institute of Science and the Bharat Electronics Ltd. He leaves for the picturesque western coastal state of Goa Sunday to spend the day there. On Monday, he will go to Bombay and stay in the city for two days before leaving for Bangkok early Wednesday.

China claims 90,000 square kilometers (36,000 square miles) of Indian territory while New Delhi counters that China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,200 square miles) of Indian land. Eight rounds of border talks have failed to resolve the issue.

Mr. Wu's visit follows a trip to Beijing by Mr. Gandhi in December of last year, when the two countries agreed to set up a joint boundary panel to settle the border dispute. That visit was the first to China by an Indian premier in 34 years.

In a related development, security was stepped up outside the Chinese Embassy here after Tibetan exiles said they would demonstrate to protest Mr. Wu's visit. Tsering Dhondup, a spokesman for the exiles, said an unspecified number of Tibetan women and monks would hold a rally outside the embassy later Thursday condemning the visit and the Chinese occupation of their homeland.

A police officer said the Tibetans had not been given permission for the demonstration and that policemen and paramilitary forces posted outside the mission in the capital's diplomatic enclave had been alerted.

Tibetan exiles in India, numbering more than 100,000, frequently hold noisy—and at times violent—demonstrations here to highlight "atrocities" by the Chinese authorities in Tibet.

LTTE's Refusal To Join Peace Meeting Assailed

BK1210011089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2040 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government's inability to hold a meeting of a peace commitee would at least amount to a "technical" breach of a decision jointly taken with India, an Indian spokesman said Wednesday [11 October]. But the spokesman from the Ministry of External Affairs said that the delay in holding the first meeting was unlikely to have a bearing on New Delhi's decision to withdraw its 42,000 peace-keeping troops from the island.

The refusal of the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to sit with other Tamils on the peace

committee was not much of a surprise here, the spokesman said in answer to questions at a regular press briefing.

The peace committee, composed of representatives of all political parties and groups in Sri Lanka, was proposed in a Indo-Sri Lanka joint communique announced September 18 and was to have its first meeting Monday. The committee was to hammer out a consensus on restoring peace in Sri Lanka's troubled north-east after the Indian troops leave. But Colombo announced in a one-paragraph statement Sunday that the meeting "has been postponed as some participants have requested time for consultations." It did not fix any new date.

The Indian spokesman accused the LTTE of continued violations of a unilateral truce announced by the Indian troops in its operations against the LTTE on September 30. He warned that if the LTTE continued with such acts, the Indian troops would be "forced to take action in accordance with the provisions" of a September 18 joint communique. He also accused the LTTE of putting forward new conditions to justify its non-participation in the democratic process in Sri Lanka.

V.P. Singh Son's Assets Disproportionate To Income

BK1110161389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The minister of state for finance, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, told the Rajya Sabha today that the government is convinced that the assets disclosed by Mr Ajay Singh, son of the Janata Dal leader, Mr V.P. Singh, are disproportionate to his known sources of income. Responding to clarifications sought by members on a statement relating to Mr Ajay Singh's alleged Saint Kitts accounts, Mr Faleiro said that all the available evidence points to the genuineness of the account with Mr Ajay Singh as account holder and Mr V.P. Singh, as beneficiary. The minister said investigation into the account can only be completed after Mr Ajay Singh submits all the information sought by the government. Mr Faleiro said Mr Singh in a letter last week had sought more time to give further clarifications.

The minister said meanwhile the Enforcement Directorate had carried out inquiries regarding maintenance of bank account in the First Trust Corporation in Saint Kitts. The minister said preliminary inquiry suggests that some time in September 1986, a functionary of the First Trust Corporation, Mr (MacLean), was approached by a person in connection with a special investment program of the corporation. He said this person indicated the intention of opening a numbered account for depositing a substantial amount of money. After details had been settled, required forms for opening the account were taken by this person. The minister said after 2 weeks, the same person returned and presented to the corporation through its managing director, Mr (MacLean), completed forms duly signed by Mr Ajay Singh as account holder and Mr V.P. Singh as beneficiary. Photostat copies of the passports of Mr Ajay Singh and Mr V.P. Singh were also handed over to Mr (MacLean).

Mr Faleiro further said on September 16 1986, a numbered account was opened with a cash deposit of $2 million. In all, six deposits totalling $21 million were made on different dates in 1986 and 1987. The minister said it is learned that under the rules of the First Trust Corporation, an account of this type could have been opened by an agent of the principal.

President's Rule in Karnataka Extended 6 Months

BK1210090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha has approved the government resolution seeking extension of president's rule in Karnataka for 6 more months from the 21st of this month. The Rajya Sabha is now discussing the motion. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, who piloted the resolution in the Lok Sabha, said once a decision on Lok Sabha polls is taken, the question of holding assembly elections in the state will also be considered. He said in the governor's view, the option of dovetailing elections to the state assembly and elections to Parliament should be kept open. The governor recommended that this is necessary in the interest of electing a stable government, he added.

Karnataka came under president's rule on 21 April last at the fall of the Bommai ministry.

Taking part in the discussion, members in the Lok Sabha appreciated the improvement in the situation in the state under the president's rule.

Security Forces Round Up 175 Students in Punjab

BK1210015689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1824 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 11 (AFP)—Eight people, including four Sikh militants, have died in separatist-related violence in the northern state of Punjab, while 175 people have been rounded up, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Wednesday [11 October]. Four of the dead were Sikh militants, ore of whom reportedly took cyanide.

Meanwhile, security forces on Wednesday rounded up some 175 pro-militant Sikh students on Wednesday to prevent a planned march on a paramilitary troop centre in Punjab, PTI said. Among those held was Bimal Khalsa, widow of Beant Singh, one of the two Sikh bodyguards who assassinated Indira Gandhi, former premier and mother of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, PTI said.

Security forces shot dead Satnam Singh Bawa, an extreme Sikh militant, after a gunfight at Saghala village in Punjab's Amritsar District late Tuesday, PTI said. Mr

Bawa, a self-styled "lieutenant general" of the Khalistan Commando Force [KCF], an organisation of extreme Sikh militants, had escaped from police custody some 21 months ago, the agency said. Mr. Bawa took part in a 3.8-million-dollar bank heist in Punjab's Ludhiana city two years ago. He was arrested in New Delhi in August 1987, but escaped while being taken to Amritsar by the police in January 1988.

Another Sikh militant died in a gunfight with security forces outside Barna village in Kapurthala District overnight. An accomplice, identified as Amarjit Singh, killed himself instantly by taking cyanide to evade arrest, PTI said.

Elsewhere, two Sikh militants were killed in a factional fight, while in a separate incident two unidentified persons died in a bomb blast Tuesday, police quoted by PTI said. Also, three passengers on a bus were injured in Punjab when Sikh militants attacked the vehicle in Ferozepur District late Tuesday, PTI said, without giving details.

Security forces took into custody some 175 activists of the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), including its President Manjit Singh, in Punjab's Amritsar District. PTI said the AISSF activists, considered by observers to be the sword-arm of Sikh militancy in Punjab, were detained when they were readying an unauthorised march to "gherao" (picket) a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) centre located in Amritsar's Mal Mandi area. The AISSF action, announced in advance, was to protest alleged repression of Sikh youths by the CRPF, one of the paramilitary forces involved in the drive against Sikh militants in Punjab. PTI did not report any violence.

Some 1,100 people have died so far this year in violence linked to a bloody campaign being waged by half-a-dozen groups, including the KCF, for a separate Sikh nation called Khalistan, or land of the pure.

BJP Workers in Madhya Pradesh Join Congress-I

BK0610160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, 2,000 BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] workers, led by Dr Sunil Kapur and Brigadier Khanna, have joined the Congress-I. The state Congress-I chief, Mr Shiv Bhanu Solanki, admitted them at a function at Obaidullahganj yesterday. The chief minister, Mr Motilal Vora, was also present on the occasion. In a statement issued in Bhopal, Mr Solanki alleged that the role of BJP in recent communal trouble in Madhya Pradesh has shaken the faith of right-thinking members of the party.

Janata Dal Chief Rules Out Alliance With BJP

BK1010024589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, has ruled out any [electoral] alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said that his party will not compromise on its principles and will not stray away from the path of communal harmony. Mr V.P. Singh urged the BJP to call off the Shila Pujan [BJP-launched Hindu religious campaign to recover a disputed Hindu-Muslim shrine] and avoid communal tension.

Minister on Expansion of Television Network

BK0910041489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] An ambitious plan of over 68 crore rupees has been drawn up for expansion of the TV network in the country. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr Bhagat, said this while talking to newsmen in Lucknow yesterday. He said 110 additional TV transmitters will start functioning by the end of the current year, taking the total to 535. With this expansion, 84 percent of the country's population and 70 percent of the area will be covered by the Doordarshan [television] programs.

The minister said it is proposed to telecast Doordarshan programs for 18 hours a day. Now, there [will be] considerable expansion of AIR [All India Radio] network also in the coming years.

Mr Bhagat asserted that the non-Congress-I chief ministers get more coverage on the electronic media than the Congress-I chief ministers.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Speech on Unity Week

LD1110151289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at an 11 October meeting with people and officials marking Unity Week; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The issue which I need to mention to all the Iranian nation and the world's Muslims on the occasion of Unity Week is the importance of unity among Muslims and of fraternal relations among Muslims wherever they may be and under whatever conditions they exist.

First of all, we must clarify what we mean by unity of Muslims. Do we mean that Muslims from various sects should abandon their creeds and believe in another creed? No. This is not what we mean. When we emphasize unity, we do not mean that Muslim creeds, including Shiite and Sunni or various sects that exist within both

creeds or the other creeds among the Muslims, should sweep aside their own beliefs in favor of a third mode of belief or the belief system of another creed. This is something which is related to one's own research and study. This is not our debate here. Our debate is that we want all Muslims, be they Shiite or Sunni, to be reminded of the following:

You share some points while you dispute some other points. In some cases you believe and practice the same thing; in some other cases every creed possesses its own method. Our idea is that first, the common points are greater in number than differences. [passage omitted] What we say is that if you Muslims of the world, wherever you may be, do not show enmity against each other, if you do not wage war and struggle against each other, if you identify your friends and foes, your conditions of life will be different from what they are today. You are suffering from disunity, weakeness, and backwardness today. Islamic countries are mainly poor, dependent, and captive. The enemies of Islam seek to forcefully sweep Islam away from Islamic countries, although the hearts of the Muslims are with Islam and God. The world's great powers, through hireling governments, seek to create distance between people and Islam. If you should all be together and refrain from squabbles, if you do not waste your force against each other, then you will realize how much great power is at your disposal, a power which you can use to improve both life in this world and life after death. This is what we say. [passage omitted]

In Unity Week, our message is that Mulsims should unite and avoid enmity against each other. This is not a wrong thing to say. This is something that any fair, wise, and objective person will accept. The axis for this is, of course, the book of God [Koran] and the tradition of the prophet, peace on him and his scion. For many years before the revolution, when this was said in a diluted fashion, the organs dependent on global arogance displayed their opposition to it. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the arrogant powers of the world realized that should the idea of Muslim unity become more prevalent, then the Muslims would turn their attention to the base, center, and focal point of Islam, that is, Islamic Iran. From the outset of the revolution, therefore, great sums of money were spent by reactionary governments and those who are dependent on the arrogant powers in order to create discord. In various countries, whether Arabic countries or those who speak Urdu or even here in the Islamic homeland, they seek through hidden and sinister hands to prevent the formation of Islamic unity, which is the message of the revolution and Islam. We say that such unity should be considered as important. This is what we say.

Of course, some make a mistake in presenting the issue. They may not be so naive in what they say. When they wish to speak of Islamic unity they say: In the early Islamic era, there were no Shiites or Sunni, and Shiism and Sunnism is therefore wrong. No, this statement is a weak argument, it is an incorrect claim. The argument is not about whether Shiism and Sunnism existed during the early Islamic era or not. Well, after the prophet, the Muslims' spoke with different voices: One group thought one way about the imamate, while another group had a different opinion. Some believed in a source for order and divine instructions, and some believed the source was something else. Some division, therefore, appeared among the Muslims on major and minor instructions of eligion right from the start. To say, therefore, that in the early Islamic era there were neither Shiites nor Sunnis is incorrect. In fact, such a statement today means rejection and the destruction of all Muslim documents on culture, theology, and divinity. On whatever is being discussed, one can say: This is a Shiite or Sunni issue and such things did not exist in the early Islamic era and are therefore wrong. The word itself sounds like a conspiracy.

In Iran, during the early days of the revolution also there were some people with poor taste, or maybe people with ill intentions, who used to utter such words. Now in the world again there are some people, who know nothing about Islam, and make similar remarks. No, we are not talking about them. We are saying that these two important affairs, that is, Shiism and Sunnism, are observing Islam's jurisprudence through the instructions inherited by the prophet's family. The Shiites follow Islamic instructions through the instructions passed to the prophet's family. Our Sunni brothers follow the religion of Islam without going through the instructions passed to the prophet's family. Of course, our Sunni brothers believe in the prophet's family too. Unlike us, however, they believe that the prophet's dynasty does not end in his family [reference to the hidden imam]. They view the family as preachers who were reiterating the prophet's sayings. We believe, however, that whatever the family of the noble prophet has said are the same as God's instructions. We respect their instructions, the same as the prophet's. We regard them as innocent saints.

Well, everyone has a source, but we say: These two affairs which have existed in the world or Islam since the beginning of the Islamic era after the prophet's death, and still remain, should carry on with their life. They should not be hostile to each other. Oil money is used today to publish books against Shiism. U.S. dollars are used to reject Shiism; and they are translated and written in the Arab and Urdu languages. These are the hands of Satan. Those who write such things are not genuine people. They are the same wherever they are.

We say that today one should not create trouble; everyone should be left to his own beliefs. Everyone should be allowed to prove his belief, too. We are not saying that preachers of various Islamic sects should not debate and should not try to prove their own beliefs on the pulpit. They should do so. Trying to prove a belief, however, is a discussion far from enmity, harmony with global arrogance, and a waste of forces in the internal war between the Muslims. One of the main messages of our revolution, therefore, is the message of Muslim unity. We say this for the entire Islamic world. We offer

advice to those who, in various countries, employ all their efforts to confront the Islamic revolution and the false accusations against the revolution and its great leader and this Muslim nation, who are striving with all their means and are struggling for the sake of Islam and God.

During the days when our nation was feeling the pressure of the United States and global arrogance on all aspects of its life and was nevertheless refusing to give in to U.S. pressure, in the days of the imposed war, some mercenary writers, mercenary hands, and mercenary speakers appeared in the world who began undermining and confronting the idea and belief of this brave, heroic, combative, devout, and selfless nation, which was struggling for the sake of God and Islam. We say that these biased speakers, who chant slogans and say things in the world today against the Islamic revolution, the Iranian nation, its religion and path, are mercenaries.

We are not addressing just one sect. We recommend this to all Muslims of the world, both Shiites and Sunnis. We have seen the unity of the Shiite and Sunni brothers inside our country, who stand side by side in the congregational prayers, in the bloody arena of the war, in the battlefield of political confrontation, in various arenas of the revolution, in the elections, in the Islamic Majlis, and everywhere else. They are together everywhere, acting kindly to each other without any problem. They respect one another. We say this to everyone: Do not insult each other's beliefs and sanctities. Should someone decide to insult sanctities of others for whatever excuse, we will not put up with it under any circumstances. In our opinion, such a person cannot be defended. [passage omitted]

I therefore recommend that Unity Week should be honored by everyone. We recommend this to all Muslims. We continue asking our brother nation of Pakistan to do the same. We ask them not to allow some pseudo-clergy and preachers, who are affiliated with some courts and global arrogance, to create discord among brothers by raising divisive slogans that we have observed. The Shiite society of Pakistan is very innocent and contented. They avoid discord and division. They do not walk on the path of discord; their leaders recommend Islamic fraternity to them. The late learned man, martyr Sayyid Arif Husayn, may God bless his soul, always invited the people to unity during his period of struggle. He called on people to unite against global arrogance; and arrogance murdered him through its mysterious and covert agents, martyred him. We strongly support the movement which is now taking place to bring the accused in the murder of that dear martyr to court. The case must be followed up; it must be cleared because that is a right of the people of Pakistan. It must be known which mysterious hired hands martyred that great man.

You must attach importance to unity. Unity Week must be a truly satisfying week in terms of its contents. We stress the issue of unity in other areas as an Islamic principle. When we say that there must be unity among Shiite and Sunni brothers for Islamic objectives, we therefore deem it necessary that unity must be maintained even stronger among the struggling and self-sacrificing people in every province, town, and place in Iran, and also among people of different strata and different dialects. God forbid that vicious or ignorant individuals bring about discord; at times the harm done by ignorant individuals is greater than that done by vicious individuals. They [ignorant people] create discord by making speeches or saying certain words. [passage omitted]

Unity is the basis of the whole thing. If unity is maintained in the solid way which has so far been witnessed then most certainly our nation and our country will attain the objectives of the revolution.

There is one other point to which I would like to draw the attention of the honorable brothers in the army political-ideological office, whether turbaned brothers and clerics who serve in the political-ideological office or the laity including civilians and military personnel who cooperate with them. The point is this: Although the Armed Forces need equipment, weapons, training, and manpower to gain strength, what distinguishes the Islamic army from all other armies is faith in God. [passage omitted]

Faith in God is the principal element; if we take it away then the Islamic army would look like the armies of other countries. It may be able to resist if it has weapons, power, equipment, and top capability, however if the other side has better equipment or more advanced weaponry then the latter would not permit any dynamism in the Islamic army. You know that today the enemies of Islam are stronger in terms of manpower and equipment, as well as material capabilities than those who are at the service of Islam and who support Islam. That applies when we eliminate the faith factor. If however, the faith factor is given due attention, if the Islamic army and armed forces—whether the army or the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps—are equipped with faith, if they operate by relying on God and being motivated by struggling for God and God's path, then no power in the world can resist it, no matter how powerful the equipment of the other side is. That is what we must create among the armed forces, because we cannot compete with the great world powers in the manufacture of armaments. They are ahead of us by many years. The same applies to manpower. The factor at our disposal is the faith factor; we must inject this into our fighting forces. Whenever we were successful, it was due to this factor. Whenever we were defeated, it was due to the fact that the faith factor was weakened among us. If you analyse the [military] operations you will come to that conclusion. [passage omitted] The imposed 8-year war is a strange page in the lesson book of that reality. We must strengthen that factor. That factor can be achieved for the Islamic Republic's army by these political-ideological units.

Of course, the gentlemen must know that propagation [of faith] must come through both words and deeds. Sincerity must be the torch which lights our path. Hearts must be convinced through words with deeds; otherwise, if good words are not accompanied by good deeds then mere good words will have no impact. Then we cannot achieve the intended goals.

I wish the great God to grace all of you honorable gentlemen and brothers and sisters, wherever you work or live, with his blessing. I wish God to make it possible for the prophets to be happy with us and make it possible for us to succeed in performing our divine duties.

Kordestan Clergy Support Khamene'i, President

LD1110204489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] On the threshold of Unity Week, an association of Kordestan's Sunni and Shiite clergy, scholars, and Friday and congregational leaders was set up in Sanandaj today.

In that association, which a number of Iraqi clergy, who have taken refuge in Iran, also participated, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid [Unity] Movement, celebrated the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the honorable messenger of Islam and the occasion of Unity Week. He reiterated the need for awareness and vigilance among Muslims against the enemies' ploys.

In his remarks, he called the role of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, instrumental in awakening Muslims and urged all world Muslims to follow the path of His Eminence Iman Khomeyni, may he be blessed by God Almighty, to achieve salvation.

According to a Central News Unit report, at the end of the association's work, a resolution was read aloud. It said the only way for the oppressed and the meek to survive from the yoke of global arrogance and for the Muslims to become organized is to unite in their words and to obey completely the immaculate ideals of the great caller for unity, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

The resolution, while announcing repeated allegiance with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, vice regent of the Muslims, emphasizes complete support for the supreme jurisconsult and the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Expediency Discernment Council Holds Session

LD1110105689 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11 IRNA—The State Expediency Council held its first meeting Tuesday night electing President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as head of the council. The leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, last Wednesday appointed the 18-member council in accordance with the Article 112 of the Constitution. The council's main responsibility is to settle issues on which the Majlis and Guardians Council do not agree.

The late imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, spokesman for the Guardians Council Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, former prime minister Hoseyn Musavi and former prosecutor general Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha are members of the council.

'Wise' Choices for Council

LD0810064389 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, IRNA—An Iranian daily said Sunday that the combination of different viewpoints in the Expediency Council would enable the system to utilize all political expertise.

The english daily TEHRAN TIMES said in an editorial, "The presence of well known political figures of the country even though from the two main political streams of the country, is the other important characteristic of the newly formed council."

Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, according to the Article 112 of the Constitution, last week selected the 18-member council from the two mainstream political and economic views in the country.

The Society of combatant ulema whose major figures are Ayatollah Madavi-Kani and Hojjat ol-Elsam Movahedi Kermani favour reduced government role in the economy and decentralization of the economy in general, said the editorial.

Meanwhile, the Assembly of Combatant 'Ulema led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi and Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'iniha are for a bigger government role in the economy and support centalized economy, added the paper.

"Utilizing different points of view on political and economic issues in the centres that are set for such debates is certainly benefitial to the health of the Islamic system and is a positive attitude," said the English daily.

The council's main responsibility is to settle issues on which the Majlis and guardians council are of different views.

The paper concluded by saying that the selection was "a wise and calculated choice".

Commentary on Council's Role

NC0910091389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Our eminent leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, last Thursday sent a letter to President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani

approving the appointment of members of the Expediency Discernment Council to a 3-year term. This was done in accordance with Article 112 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the permanent and temporary members of the council must be appointed by the leader.

In his letter to the president, the leader of the Islamic Republic's revolutionary system wrote: It is expected that Your Excellency will convene and preside over the Expediency Discernment Council and ensure that this institution works to guarantee the interests of the Islamic system and the great and noble Iranian nation within the limits of its authority.

This council was established at the behest of the great leader of the revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, to resolve the problems confronting the Islamic system. The most important factor behind its creation was the conflict of opinion between the members of the Islamic Majlis and the members of the Council of Guardians over certain laws approved by the Majlis.

Such disagreement blocked efforts to tackle the fundamental issues facing the county and the resulting stalemate posed a serious problem to the management of society's affairs. Such problems had not been anticipated in the 1979 Constitution and so no provision was made for their solution. The need to rectify this situation was so vital that the system's top authorities consulted the founder of the Islamic revolution. At the direction of Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, the Expediency Discernment Council was set up and began to tackle those issues that were considered a threat to Iran's Islamic system.

After the council was established, it was discovered that loopholes in the 1979 Constitution occasionally obstructed the qualified sources of emulation from carrying out their duties. This led to a request from 104 Majlis deputies that the founder of the Islamic Republic clarify the overlapping duties of the Islamic Majlis and the Expediency Discernment Council. In response, his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, after referring to the emergency conditions which necessitated the establishment of the Expediency Discernment Council, stressed that all actions must continue to be based on law.

When the need to revise the Constitution became imperative, and in order to define the Expediency Discernment Council's status, powers, and duties, the late leader of the revolution directed the council to reappraise the Constitution to resolve any problems and to consult with the leadership when the other branches of government provided no recourse.

The council's legal status was established by Article 112 of the amendments to the Constitution, which defined the nature of its powers and duties. This article stipulates that the council will convene whenever the Council of Guardians determines that a proposed bill contravenes sharia law or whenever the Council of Guardians believes that the Constitution or an action by the Majlis is not in the national interest. The Expediency Discernment Council will also consult on matters presented by the leader that fall within its jurisdiction as outlined by the Constitution. The council's permanent and temporary members will be appointed by the leader.

Since its inception, the Expediency Discernment Council, acting within its jurisdiction, has enacted various bills including the laws and regulations on the punishment of drug traffickers, the state punishment laws, and the punishment laws in the field of health and treatment. In this way, it has removed major bottlenecks hindering officials of the executive branch.

Because of its legal status and powers, the Expediency Discernment Council is able to break the deadlock in the basic problems facing society by stating the government's policy.

In his decree establishing the Expediency Discernment Council, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, wrote: The Islamic world today looks to the Islamic Republic of Iran for guidance in the resolution of problems. By meeting its obligations, the council can disprove the propaganda of the enemies of Islam who falsely claim that Islam is incapable of dealing with day-to-day problems. In this way, divine Islam's dynamism, clarity, and ability to administer affairs in any era will be shown.

Publication of Khomeyni's Works To Be Controlled

LD1110134989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance has issued a statement in which it announces: Taking note of the fact that the works of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—explain pure Muhammadan Islam and that they should be saved from any harm in the religious, cultural, social, and political life of the revolution and must be preserved, and bearing in mind the 8 September 1988 edit of his eminence the imam—may God's benedictions be upon him—stating that responsibility for them rests with his esteemed son, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, and with the setting up of the Center for the Publication and Compilation of the Works of His Eminence, the imam—may his soul be sanctified—the publication of any kind of works by his eminence will be possible only after coordination with and the written approval of the center and endorsement by the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance's for Publication and Distribution.

Security Council Publishes Complaints Against U.S.

NC1010123289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] The UN Security Council has disseminated three official memoranda by the Islamic Republic of Iran, in

the form of official documents, on the violation of international laws and regulations by the United States in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

According to IRNA, these memoranda relate to cases of categorical violation of Iran's rights and international law by the U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman during the period between 1 December 1988 and 26 March 1989; that is, 10 Azar 1367 and 6 Farvardin 1368. Warnings to vessels and Iran's airplanes patrolling over international or, in most cases, Iranian waters are among the unlawful actions by the U.S. warships which have been listed in these memoranda.

These documents were placed at the disposal of correspondents yesterday. The UN Security Council is obliged to accept the requests of UN members that their memoranda be issued as official documents which can be used in international relations.

KEYHAN Views West's 'Psychological' Warfare

LD0710193789 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN said today that the West is now trying to tantalize the masses in Iran by raising high flying hopes of economic prosperity, and then frustrating them into losing their faith in the ruling system.

In a commentary titled "An Effort for Squandering Energy" contributer Majid Reza'iyan said the West has been continuously trying to entangle the Islamic Government with commonplace day-to-day problems involving the expenditure of the bulk of its national and political energy and resources for solving those problems and making it incapable of addressing itself to the more important tasks ahead.

The commentary said when due to the circumstances of the day the government has to expend a great deal of its political energy for stabilizing, "say the price of potatoes or eggs, then little energy remains for it to invest on the more important issues and plans for the future."

"The judicial branch," said the commentary, "has a potentially important role to play for offering an immediate solution to the problems and preventing adverse impacts on the five-year development plan. In order to ensure the stability of a popular system the judiciary should go ahead to exercise its control over social and external elements...."

The commentary continued that success of the administration of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which it said has been facing a mass of heaping demands since its installation "is dependent on the authority the judiciary can exercise in social and economic arenas.

"Uncompromising encounter with hoarders, and the establishment of comparative checks together with plans for reforming the country's administrative system can potentially lead to favourable results under the circumstances.

"Only once the two arms of administrative authority, that is the executive and judiciary have a firm grip of the situation in a complementary role, may it be hoped that the goals of the West in Iran will be totally defeated...

"It would be worthwhile remembering that during the post war reconstruction era, or perhaps more appropriately the neither-peace-nor-war era, the West is concentrating the entirety of its effort on schemes for making the Islamic republic expend its efforts on perverted preoccupations. Obviously, once a popular political system is led to expending its energy on solving such problems as the price of potatoes rather than on more important concerns then it has depleted its energy on triflings exposing itself to growing long-term problems....

"Under the present circumstances of niether-war-nor-peace and while the government means to address itself to economic issues the enemy is on an all-out battle with the Islamic Republic in its bid to discourage the masses from the political scene, and to minimize popular support for the Islamic Government especially in its cultural aspects...."

The psychological war of the West going on along with its anti-cultural schemes places added responsibility on the shoulder of the revolutionary forces, said KEYHAN and concluded that under the circumstances and with respect to the trust of the people in the leadership and in the new government, "the people and the government cannot do better than go dedicate themselves to their last breath in identifying the problems that are plaguing the country and solving those problems with a firm will so that the nation may successfully get through this present juncture of the revolution era."

Tehran Radio Commentary on Relations With PRC

LD0710154389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Station commentary: "Iran and China on Their Way to Expanding Ties"]

[Text] In light of PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's 2-day visit to Tehran, which begins today, ties between the two countries should be assessed once again. The PRC foreign minister held talks today with his Iranian counterpart, Dr Velayati, during which they discussed international affairs as well as bilateral issues.

Explaining recent developments in China, he criticized the interference of some foreign powers in those events. He said that his country would never compromise its policies.

Mr Qian, meanwhile, revealed Beijing's support for the full implementation of Resolution 598 and the activities of the UN secretary general. Political figures in the know

attach importance to the efforts of the head of PRC, diplomacy in establishing greater understanding in the two countries' relations, especially with due regard for developments that have appeared in the region and in the world, and specifically because these ties have visibly expanded following the recent visit to Beijing by His Eminance Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran. In fact, following Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's [as heard] visit to Beijing, the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] decided to expand its friendly ties with the PRC. Undoubtedly, reciprocal interests by the PRC Government also have been of importance.

On the political plane, the two countries always have continued to exchange views on international issues, and in so doing the IRI has held common views with the PRC on the problems of Afghanistan, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Because there are vast potentials and capacities for the expansion of Iran-PRC ties, political observers have a positive assessment for progress in the fields of economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation between the two countries, especially as the 8-year war has ended, because the two countries are trying to implement planned, expanded, and long-term cooperation. They also want to base their proposed relations on trust and on foundations that cannot be affected by various events.

It seems, therefore, that these efforts now have taken a practical turn in the signing of several memoranda of understanding in such areas as science, technology, and economics. Agreements on cultural exchanges and banking facilities will also serve to expand ties in all these dimensions.

Yet, one must say that political cooperation is one of the important sectors of relations between the two countries. This point enjoys a great deal of importance because of Iran's neither East nor West policy, because that point is among the basic principles of the Islamic revolution, and Iran is committed to it in a realistic way. That important feature of Iran's foreign policy, seen against the political will now in evidence in the PRC with regard to maintaining independence of action in relations with the military-political powers of the world, as well as Beijing's efforts to stabilize that policy, has brought about a situation in which Iran and the PRC can share similar views in many cases on maintaining peace in the region and throughout the world, despite the fact that the two countries have different regimes.

As the IRI accepted Resolution 598 to commit itself to the establishment of a lasting and serious peace in the region, so it is expected that the PRC as a permanent member of the UN Security Council will play an effective role in the implementation of Resolution 598 and in the restoration of security and stability in the regon.

This comes at a time when Iraq has proved that it has no inclination to implement Security Council Resolution 598. Here, the IRI already knew that Iraq did not want a serious peace. The IRI believes that in the absence of international pressure, Iraq will not submit to the implementation of the resolution.

With regard to Iran-PRC relations and their expansion, it must be said that only a part of the available capacities in the two countries have been exploited. At present, the IRI has begun an all-embracing reconstruction phase, following the end of the war. It is determined to have recourse to the friendship and cooperation of those countries that are related to Iran through shared views and thoughts, as well as shared material and spiritual fields. Having done so, the IRI wants to have those countries participate in its comprehensive and speedy reconstruction. Thus, many political observers see a bright future in the relations between Iran and the PRC.

Further Reportage on Visit of Zambian Premier

Areas of Cooperation Defined

LD1110171589 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—Iran's president Hoj. [Hojjat ol-Eslam] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday [11 October] received a message from the Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda. The message was submitted to him by visiting Zambian Prime Minister Malimba Masheke here. The Zambian minister said this talks with the Iranian officials had been fruitful. He called for further broadening of relations between Iran and Zambia.

The Iranian president appreciated the message of the Zambian president and said that Iran welcomes furthering her relations with the Frontline countries against apartheid.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran supports the struggle of the Namibian people.

Elsewhere in his talks with the visiting Zambian official Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized on the need for implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The Zambian prime minister arrived here heading a delegation from his country on October 6.

Meanwhile the Zambian official today participated in the second and last round of his talks with Iranian First Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi and a group of Iranian officials. In the meeting the results of the talks of the visiting Zambian delegation in Tehran with their Iranian counterparts were reviewed, and the need for exchange of expertise in various industrial and agricultural areas between the two countries was emphasized.

Malimba Masheke said that he and the Zambian delegation had visited Esfahan, Abadan and Khorramshahr and that they had been very much impressed by the high morale and industry of the people in those cities.

Habibi reminded the Zambian delegation of Iraq's violations of international conventions as evidenced in attacks on residential and non-military areas in the cities visited by the Zambian delegation and expressed hope that the community of world nations would shortly compel Iraq to get out of the Iranian soil, and respect the Iran-Iraq 1975-accord.

Iran and Zambia have agreed to cooperate in the area of mining, wheat, rice, sugar cane cultivation and forestation, as well as establishment of cattle food factories, and other factories for food products and manufacturing buses, small buses, tractors and military hardware.

Concludes Visit 12 Oct

NC1210091589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Zambian Prime Minister Mr Malimba Masheke, heading a high-ranking political-economic delegation, left Tehran this morning and was officially seen off by Mr Habibi, the first vice president, and by the ministers of commerce and of mines and industries.

At the end of the Zambian president's visit, a memorandum of understanding for political, economic, and cultural cooperation was signed and a joint communique was issued.

In an interview with correspondents, First Vice President Habibi assessed the talks and agreements during the visit by the Zambian president and his delegation as positive, and said: Our relations with Zambia are satisfactory in the political field. During the visit by the Zambian president and his delegation, we tried to expand these relations in the economic field too. For this purpose, the Zambian and Iranian delegations held satisfactory talks on the export of Iranian oil and industrial products and on the purchase of copper and zinc from that country.

Mr Habibi added: In the memorandum of understanding the general points of commercial and economic relations were clarified, and the two sides agreed that experts from both countries will visit the two countries to study fields of cooperation and to clarify ways to further expand relations.

The ministers of mines and of commerce and industries and the acting defense minister of Zambia accompanied the Zambian prime minister on his official 7-day visit to Iran. He visited Esfahan, Abadan, and Khorramshahr.

Visiting Swedish Official Meets With Habibi

LD0910182789 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 9, IRNA—Visiting Swedish First Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori told First Vice President Hasan Habibi today that the Stockholm government was keen on expanding economic ties with the Islamic Republic.

Habibi in reply paid tribute to the late Swedish premier Olaf Palme and called for further efforts by the U.N. special envoy Jan Eliasson—also a Swede—to speed up the enforcement of Resolution 598 which seeks to end the Iraqi conflict.

"Any hesitation in implementing the 1975 Iran-Iraq accord will put another international agreements to question," warned the vice-president.

In a separate meeting earlier today the Swedish official conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on ways of promoting mutual ties, implementing 598 and other international issues.

Papers Comment on Al-Ta'if Meeting on Lebanon

LD1110112189 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—Two Persian dailies Wednesday editorialized on al-Ta'if meet which ended without reaching any result.

The meeting was attended by 62 Lebanese parliamentarians, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco, members of the tripartite Arab committee commissioned to find a settlement for the Lebanese crisis.

"The meeting was another Camp David," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adding that the Lebanese parliamentarians may not be allowed to leave Saudi Arabia before signing an agreement which would meet U.S. demands. However, resistance of several deputies may to some extent make things difficult for the White House, it added.

It recommended the Lebanese nation to demonstrate a proper reaction to enemies' conspiracies and thus preserve their national and religious identity.

Only then the United States and the mediators will come to understand that they should not meddle in decisions concerning the fate of Lebanon, said the editorial.

Meanwhile, the other Persian daily, ABRAR said that the al-Ta'if deadlock was a political ploy to give more importance to the meeting.

The goal of the political maneuver in al-Ta'if was to maintain the Maronite in power—a minority ruling over the majority and being used to protect interests of the United States, France and the Zionist regime in the region.

The daily termed West's ballyhoo on returning of democracy to Lebanon as a big lie saying, "how could those who claim to suport democracy ignore rights of the majority in Lebanon."

Commentary Criticizes Pakistan's 'Silence'

LD1110165789 Tehran IRNA in English 1107 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—The Pakistani Government was criticized by an Iranian daily Wednesday [11 October] for its negligence to bring to justice the culprits involved in the martyrdom of the Pakistani Shiite leader Araf Hussaini more than a year ago.

"The Pakistani Government should not create a situation in which the Pakistani people assume that the present regime, like the previous military one, puts interests of alien powers above those of its own people," said a commentary in JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

The paper believed, "Islamabad's silence, indifference and irresponsibility towards such a tragic incident which has hurt 100 million Pakistani Muslims, is neither negligible nor tolerable."

Stating that the Saudi agents were behind the killing, the commentary voiced the conviction that the Pakistani Government is inclined to follow up the case and punish the culprits, but that the CIA has been working to prevent the investigations.

"If this happens to be the case, then the political independence of Pakistan comes under question," concluded the paper.

Commentary Urges Afghan Forces To Coordinate

LD1010142889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1052 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you dear listeners. The title of our first political commentary is "The Afghan Mujahidin and the Difficult Task of Choosing a Path"—to which we draw your attention.

During separate meetings between Foreign Minister Velayati, the head of the seven-party alliance's interim government, the leader of Jamiyat-e Eslami, and the council of Afghanistan's eight-party alliance, the need for the creation of a comprehensive government that would reflect the aspirations of all strata of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan was stressed. During these meetings, the foreign minister, referring to the draft copy of a preliminary understanding between the eight-party alliance and Mr Sebghatullah Mojadeddi [chairman of the seven-party alliance interim government], said that the understanding was a positive step toward final agreement between the eight-party alliance and the seven-party alliance's interim government. Velayati expressed hope that these efforts will, through continuation of the talks and through further meetings, lead to a decisive agreement.

Because the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] has always been in favor of unity among the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin, the measures undertaken in the wake of organizing the second international seminar on Afghanistan have been evaluated as positive. At the same time, the mujahidin's attempts to remain committed to the unifying principles of Islam are the only factor that can secure the establishment of an Islamic, independent, and nonaligned government in Afghanistan. Seven months after the withdrawal of the last Soviet soldier from this country's territory, however, many opportunities for the realization of this top demand of the Afghan nation have been lost. The people of this country, after 11 years of Islamic struggle to establish Islamic values, are still facing new political, military, and international developments. These developments have completely pushed the issue of Afghanistan to a sensitive and complex situation. On the one hand, the Kabul regime has managed to survive despite the withdrawal of the Soviet military forces. On the other hand, in view of the complicated internal and external difficulties, the neighboring countries prefer to see a political solution of the problem instead of a military one. In this connection, political experts believe that further bloodshed cannot help finding a solution to the problem of Afghanistan at this juncture. Nevertheless, the start of the new fighting season in Afghanistan has further complicated this country's crisis amid the political problems.

Under the circumstances, in which the Islamic resistance of Afghanistan is entangled by tribal divisions in addition to disputes on language and religion, global powers are trying in various ways to separate the struggle of the Muslim people of Afghanistan from the significant unity factor of pure Muhammadan Islam to make them confront one another. In view of the divide and rule policy pursued by global arrogance, we hear reports about U.S. direct military assistance to the mujahidin commanders inside Afghanistan, and also contacts made between the Kabul regime and some of these commanders. At the same time, observers believe that imposition of un-Islamic values on Afghan society by global powers will no doubt have more tragic consequences.

Some of the mujahidin leaders believe that the country's crisis stems from interventions by aliens and the continuation of the aggressive strategy of global powers. Others believe that the worsening tension is mainly the outcome of internal developments and not external. As to which of the two beliefs is closer to reality is a different matter. What is necessary, however, for the future of an Islamic, independent and nonaligned Afghanistan, free from domination by global powers, is coordination of all the jihad forces in Afghanistan. No doubt, if the Afghan mujahidin were to miss these last opportunities, the nation of Afghanistan would be deprived of establishing an Islamic government and, because others have imposed a solution, the Afghan nation will have to safeguard their interests in Afghanistan. [sentence as heard]

War Funding Institution To Dissolve 10 Oct

LD0910183789 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—With over a year of ceasefire in the Iraqi war, another wartime institution will cease to exist as of October 10.

"The headquarters for collection of popular aid towards the country's war efforts will be dissolved tomorrow, following the end of the 6-month deadline set by the founder of the Islamic Republic," announced its chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani today. He said the late Imam Khomeyni's order was in response to a request by officials in charge of the headquarters.

Rahmani lauded the performance of the said institution, and said from 1985 to early 1989, it had collected rials 13,500 billion ($1.48 bn) in cash and material aid towards war efforts.

Rahmani who also heads the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), said "financed by the HQ a 500-bed hospital was under construction on a 6,000 square metre plot in eastern Tehran for basijis (volunteer forces)."

Majlis Approves Deputies' Education Requirements

LD0910084689 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—According to a Sunday [8 October] Majlis approval, future Majlis candidates are required to hold at least a bachelor degree or be a graduate of the theological schools, a report said here Monday.

The Majlis approved Sunday the minimum requisite for theologians who wish to run in Majlis elections, is completing the comprehensive level in theological centers and that the degree must be notarized by the theological school in the holy city of Qom.

Other candidates are required to be university graduates.

Economy Minister on New Exchange Rate Policy

LD1110193989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Interview with Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economy and finance, by unidentified correspondent on 11 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Mr Nurbakhsh, minister of economy and finance, in an interview with correspondents today, announced that banks will no longer demand a deposit for import registration. He also said that companies and institutions backed by the Ministry of Commerce as well as companies backed by banks can avail themselves of preferential competitive foreign exchange. We draw your attention to the interview by the minister of economic affairs and finance with our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Nurbakhsh, please explain what impact the latest decision on foreign exchange has had on bringing down prices? Also, what impact we can expect in future?

[Nurbakhsh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The recent decisions adopted with regard to foreign exchange polices will of course have an impact on prices. We intend to make this an on-going policy. The 5-year plan envisages us continuing that policy. Therefore, I confirm that we have adopted this measure as a continuous and on-going policy which will continue in future.

The next point is that we will try to accomodate the demand [for foreign currencies] which Bank Tejarat will handle. Therefore, I announce today that two more organizations are now allowed—we have already drawn up letters for circulation—to satisfy their needs for foreign currency as I explained earlier. One group consists of companies, institutions, and centers which are backed by the Ministry of Commerce, and the other involves companies backed by the banks. Therefore, this measure will remove a larger volume of demand for foreign currency on the free market for foreign exchange. Well, generally such a measure will reduce prices.

The next point is that in drafting the new plan we have tried to provide exactly the same kind of services that were previously provided by the private sector. Therefore, we have sent a circular to the banks asking them not to demand a 15 percent deposit for import registration under the name of an import registration deposit. This is, of course, different from the import registration deposit so that the situation is exactly the same as that prevailing on the competitive market.

Therefore, competitive conditions will be created both in the volume of demand and with regard to rates. This will certainly have an impact on the rate.

[Correspondent] Mr Nurbakhsh, in your view, what form will the downward trend in foreign exchange rates take in the free market? Are you seeing any developments now?

[Nurbakhsh] I think that prices will in general experience a downward trend because of our present on-going policy. Also, as we have already decided, and as I have already outlined in two cases, the application of the measure will expand step by step with regard to the number of organizations demanding foreign exchange. We are searching for a realistic rate of foreign exchange for this sector compased with the market. I recommend to those who have invested in that market, as speculators in foreign exchange or in goods whose prices are determined by the dollar rate on this market, to put their affairs in order before they create a financial crisis for themselves—taking note of the fact that the dollar rate will move in that way. They had better give up the idea of speculating on the foreign exchange market.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Facsimile Network, Postal Services To Expand

NC1210090789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Postal services will extend to 2,000 villages during the country's 5-year economic, social, and cultural development plan. Also, the number of facsimile units in the country is to increase to 5,000.

The Central News Unit reports that this was stated by the deputy for plans and programs and member of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Republic's Postal Company on the occasion of Post Week. He also added that the private sector postal services parallel to the state sector postal services in the provinces will be closed down.

He then discussed the postal company's 5-year program and said that during this program 87 mechanized postal centers are to be set up in various parts of the country. Also, with the creation of 500 postal stations in village centers, 2,000 villages will be covered by the postal services. He said that each one of these stations will serve four villages around it.

The technical deputy and member of the postal company's Board of Directors also announced that on the occasion of the next anniversary of the revolution on 11 February, 22 areasp in the country will be linked with the international facsimile network. He said that in addition to the introduction of air and sea services in the country's northern areas and in the Persian Gulf, mobile postal services will also be created in order to facilitate and improve postal services.

Uranium Bullion Plant To Be Set Up in Yazd

NC0810081389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Oct 89

[Text] Tests on uranium taken from a 2,500-hectare sample area of the 2,500 sq km on which uranium deposits have been found in northeast Yazd have been completed and their results incorporated into the country's first 5-year plan.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr Amrollahi, deputy president and head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Agency, who has visited Yazd stated that the establishment of a uranium bullion manufacturing plant which will employ 800 workers and experts in Yazd in the next 2 years is planned.

He added that samples have been taken and studies are being done on the 60 wells that have been dug with a combined depth of 14,000 meters. Additional studies have been completed on two deposits and are being carried out on eight other deposits.

Survey of Uranium Samples Completed

LD1110093989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Work relating to statistical research and the analysis of samples of uranium ores—in the region as large as 2,500 hectares in the uranium mine of Saghand, near Yazd—has been completed. The findings have been compiled in order to be included in calculations for the country's first 5-year plan. Our correspondent reports from Yazd:

Following the identification of the region measuring 2,500 square meters—uranium mines situated in the Saghand region, northeast Yazd—statistical research and the analysis of uranium ore samples of 2,500 hectares of those mines were completed. The findings were compiled in order to be included in projections made for the first 5-year plan. The Central News Unit reports that Mr Amrollahi, deputy president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization, who has travelled to Yazd, said in the interview: Through systematic work during the next 2 years, a plant to produce refined uranium will be set up in Yazd Province which will employ 800 people. He added: Through sampling and analysis of the findings, work on analysis of two masses of uranium ores has been completed. Further work is being carried out on eight more masses which possess high levels of uranium.

Satellite TV Introduced in Zabol Province

LD0910121789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] A satellite television receiving station in the Miankangi border region, Zabol Province was commissioned and has begun trial operations.

With the commissioning of the station, the inhabitants of Miankangi region and nearby villages will be able to receive programes of the First Network of the vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 7.

According to a Central News Unit report from Zahedan, the installation and start-up work on the satellite television station, which is the first in the Sistan region, has been carried out by the engineers and technical personnel of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Zahedan Center.

Nepal

Foreign Ministry Comments on Li Peng's Nov Visit

BK0410042989 Hong Kong AFP in English 2024 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 3 (AFP)—China's Premier Li Peng is due to make a four-day official visit to Nepal in mid-November on the second leg of a planned trip to three South Asian nations, a Nepal Foreign Ministry source said here Tuesday.

Mr Li is scheduled to arrive after his planned visit to Islamabad and will travel on to Dhaka, the source said, adding that during the visit he is scheduled to hold talks with his Nepalese counterpart Marich Man Singh Shrestha and will be received in audience by King Birendra.

Talks are expected to cover bilateral economic and political relations, and the possibility of Chinese assistance in building irrigation and hydroelectric power projects and supplying Nepal with essential goods.

The visit comes at a time when Nepal is experiencing shortages caused by a virtual blockade of the country's borders by India following a dispute over trade and transit treaties which expired in March and have yet to be renegotiated.

China is currently building a major road between Pokhara and Baglung in Western Nepal District, an international standard meeting hall in the capital and a cotton mill in southwestern Nepal, the official source said.

A Chinese Embassy source said "Mr Li will have ample time to hold exclusive talks with King Birendra and explain the recent political turmoil in Beijing."

The visit will also allow the Nepalese people to become acquainted with Mr Li who is virtually unknown here unlike senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and the late Mao Zedong.

MP Criticizes Government Policy on India

BK1210062989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] In Nepal, Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament] member, Dr Gajendranarayan Singh, has said that the cordial talks between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and King Birendra at Belgrade had raised great hopes among the suffering Nepalese people about an impending end to their hardships created by the expiry of the trade and transit treaties with India.

In an interview with a news agency in Kathmandu, Mr Singh charged the Nepalese Government of trying to sabotage the prospects created by the talks between the two leaders of an early solution of the stalemate between India and Nepal. Mr Singh said there was neither abrogation of the treaties by India nor had there been any economic blockade on Nepal by this friendly neighboring country. Mr Singh suggested that the Nepalese Government should retrace its steps and try to resolve the crisis in national interest.

Pakistan

Nusrat Bhutto Terms U.S. Paper Report 'Stupid'

BK1110171689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The senior minister, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, has denied an American newspaper report that Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has asked President George Bush for help in fighting her opponents. In an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS, she termed the report as stupid and false. How can the head of one government ask the head of another government to interfere in domestic affairs, she asked. The report was carried by THE WASHINGTON POST.

Bhutto Talks With National Assembly Members

BK1110151889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1507 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the people's government will take realistic and practical measures to solve the people's problems on a priority basis. She was talking to members of the National Assembly from Punjab at a luncheon in Islamabad today [11 October]. These National Assembly members apprised her of the problems of the people of their respective areas. Benazir Bhutto said her government is fully aware of the problems of the people and it will launch a massive development program in various parts of the country.

Bhutto Presides Over Lahore PPP Meeting 11 Oct

BK1110163089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1606 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister presided over a meeting in Islamabad today to discuss the organization of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] of Lahore division. According to the central information secretary of the party, Mr Qayyum Nizami, it was decided with consensus to reorganize the PPP of Lahore division. The names of the new office-bearers will be announced by Mr Fakhar Zaman in Lahore. Ms Benazir Bhutto instructed MNA's and MPA's [members of the National Assembly and members of the Provincial Assembly] belonging to Punjab People's Party to convene a meeting in their constituencies to initiate a membership drive and complete it by May next year. She said after the membership drive, elections will be held at the council, ward, and tehsil [revenue district] levels as well as for vacant positions at division and district levels.

Tax Agreement Signing During Li Peng Visit

BK0910042289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Pakistan and the PRC will sign an agreement on taxation during the official visit of Chinese Premier Li Peng to Pakistan next month. This was revealed by the

leader of the five-member Chinese delegation on taxation, (Jiang Seng), while speaking at the dinner hosted in their honor in Karachi last night by Pakistan Taxation Club.

An initial agreement was signed in Karachi yesterday, after the talks of the senior tax officials of the two countries. It is expected that this would help in promoting economic and commercial ties between Pakistan and the PRC.

Soviet Team Holds Talks on POW's Release

BK0810111889 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, Sept. 28—The two-member Soviet delegation, currently visiting Peshawar in connection with the release of Soviet Prisoners of War (POW) would seek the help of Pakistani authorities to use their good offices in bringing about an end to the ordeal of Soviet prisoners, THE MUSLIM learnt on good authority.

The delegation comprises: Iona Andronov, a working journalist and Alexi Ameline, father of a missing soldier. They have been holding talks with Farooq Azam, Education Minister in the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) who has been authorised by the AIG Prime Minister Prof. Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf to keep constant contact with the delegation.

Official Says UN Aid for Afghans 'Behind Schedule'

BK1010112889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Pakistan has appealed to the United Nations not to forget the millions of Afghan refugees who have taken shelter on its soil. Addressing the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, the Pakistan delegate, Mr S.K. Baldial, complained that deliveries of UN relief supplies for Afghan refugees in Pakistan are behind schedule. He told the committee that the Afghan refugees are still in Pakistan months after the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Commentary on Continued Support to Afghanistan

BK0710092489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Commentary by Umar Latif]

[Text] In all forums and all occasions and throughout the past over the last 10 years Pakistan has categorically and consistently supported the Afghan mujahidin in their right cause of winning over freedom for their homeland. All people of the world have endorsed this forthright stand of Pakistan. Valiant Afghan freedom fighters have already written a new chapter of their glorious history with their blood. Having driven foreign forces out of Afghanistan, their forming an interim government has been the first step toward searching for a political solution.

Pakistan cannot sacrifice their great cause for any expediency, as it has never done, despite terrible pressures and threats to its own existence. Pakistan's policy as recently reiterated by the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, on supporting the Afghan interim government [AIG] has been clear, categorical, consistent, and forthright. Right from the beginning of the Afghan conflict, Pakistan has strongly advocated a three-dimensional remedy to end the human sufferings in this war-torn neighborly nation. This has been the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul, self-determination for the Afghan people, and a safe and respectable return home of refugees having taken shelter in Pakistan and Iran. The return of the refugees can take place when the present oppressive regime in Kabul is thrown out.

Freedom is the basic right of the people which cannot be denied. History is [word indistinct] with events with eventual success to the fighters for a right cause. Political solution of the Afghan problem to which all the parties in principle agreed and which is contained in the Geneva accord, is feasible through formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan. It is possible, as Pakistan has time and again stated, within the framework of the AIG, which has been holding parleys with the concerned quarters, but with a definite no to the present rulers in Kabul. It is a stand based on a well-known principle and finer human values. At the most, the framework was retractable so as to accommodate genuine parties in the new government setup. The Kabul rulers must transfer power to the representatives of the people instead of insisting wrongly on sharing of power. Any other formula would create more complications to the existing situation.

Pakistan has never been and would never be a party to compounding of the Afghan problem. Those who stand for a reasonable and just solution, can never contribute to creating complications, (?as) the prime minister observed on her return from Dhaka, as has been further categorically stated by the senior federal minister, Begum Nusrut Bhutto, at the United Nations.

Pakistan's firm belief and steadfast stand in seeking a political solution of the Afghan issue has been clearly and categorically reaffirmed. There has been no deviation in it. From the Pakistani point of view, the AIG needs backing of Pakistan and all those who believe in freedom as a human right. Pakistan does not recognize the Najib regime, which has been depending upon military might of alien forces. As such, Pakistan cannot make a suggestion to the AIG for talks with the isolated regime.

It is purely a matter for the AIG alone to choose and to decide with whom to talk and what to talk. Pakistan would continue to extend its total support for a best resolution of the Afghan problem.

Afghanistan is the common heritage of all Afghans, who have a right to take part in determining their future. For a final victory to the freedom fighters, it is imperative that all the Afghan groups cooperate and coordinate in attaining the right to self-determination. Pakistan would

continue its efforts resolutely in seeking an equitable solution to the Afghan problem. The days of the puppet regime in Kabul are short and they are destined for self-destruction.

Pakistan has adopted a policy of constructive contribution in finding a political solution in Afghanistan. There has been no change and would never be in the principled stand taken by Pakistan since 1979, and Pakistan will stand resolutely behind its declaration.

New Committee To Review Defense Purchases

BK0810112889 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Sep 89 p 1

[By Tariq Butt]

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 29—A top level committee formed recently to review and accord approval for contracts and awards for the purchase of defence equipment will meet shortly.

It is headed by Major General (Retd.) Imtiaz, Adviser on Defence, and comprises Colonel (Retd.) Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, Minister of State for Defence and seven other high ranking civil and military officials.

The committee met last May and took certain decisions.

An official told "THE MUSLIM" on Friday the committee would review earlier defence purchases and pinpoint any malpractices.

However, he conceded there had been certain irregularities in defence deals during the previous regime.

The official, who did not want to be named, said the bids for new purchases would be placed before the committee to approve any one of them which was cost effective. He did not specify the kind of equipment being purchased.

He clarified that the committee had not been formed to "harrass" any official, but to serve the prime national interests.

The concerned officials, he said, would appear before the body to explain the salient features, necessity and efficacy of the fresh purchases.

The prime minister is kept informed of the decisions of the committee, the official said. On her instructions, some cases are reviewed at times, he added.

At the time of the formation of the body, it was said that it would hold periodical meetings and that it was not "meant to dig the dead out of the graves and operate them."

The official said the committee was meeting after a fairly long interval because all its members were not available at the appointed time. In the absence of Gen. Imtiaz, Col. Cheema will preside over the meetings.

Sri Lanka

14 People Killed in 'Political Violence' 11 Oct

BK1110125089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 14 people were killed in political violence a day before the broadly-based peace talks are to begin. A news agency, quoting military sources, said in Colombo that nine bodies with gunshot wounds were found today at the banks of Kelani River south of Colombo. Twenty-one political groups are meeting tomorrow at a conference to be chaired by President Premadasa to examine proposals to solve the current spate of violence.

Premadasa Meets With Groups; Violence Continues

BK1210034689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 22 political groups are meeting in Colombo today to examine proposals to end the current spate of violence in the island nation. The meeting will be chaired by President Premadasa.

Meanwhile, at least 36 people, including 20 JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists, were killed in separate incidents during last 36 hours.

Red Cross Asked To Extend 'Humanitarian Services'

BK0910141889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, Oct 9 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Monday bowed to pressure from human rights groups and allowed the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to intervene in the island's bloody internal conflict.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa's office in a statement said an invitation was extended to the president of the ICRC Monday to send a team of officials to Sri Lanka "early to work out the modalities" of its functions.

"On a directive of the president, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has invited the ICRC to extend its traditional humanitarian services to Sri Lanka," the statement said.

It listed services of the ICRC, which includes tracing missing persons, visiting detention camps and creating conditions for peace and normality and said many countries have used the expertise of the ICRC in times of conflict.

A local human rights group, the Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka, last month asked the government to allow the ICRC to enter the country to carry out its work to help those affected by violence in the country.

"It (the ICRC) has achieved considerable success in situations quite as horrific as our own. Confronting acts

of violence directed against defenceless persons is the crying need of the hour in our country," the movement said. [passage omitted]

"By breaking through the vicious spiral of revenge and retaliation, the ICRC lays the foundation for peace, creating an atmosphere in which negotiations might take place," the Civil Rights Movement said.

The goverment's move came as Mr. Premadasa continued a peace effort to end the political strife in his Indian Ocean island republic. [passage omitted]